



# COMPLIANCE IS NOT OPTIONAL

October 2015

## Inpatient Reviews Are Expected to Shift to Whether Hospital Care Was Needed at All

When the dust settles and auditors are unleashed again on inpatient admissions, they probably will have a different bent. Rather than tunnel vision about hospitals billing Medicare for inpatient admissions that should have been billed for outpatient or observation services, auditors will likely turn their attention to the broader concept of whether patients needed to be in the hospital at all.

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"It's volume one of the ICD-10 code manual. Where do you want it?"

## Gift Bans

As most of you are probably aware, as state employees we are required to comply with the Illinois *State Officials and Employee Ethics Act* (Ethics Act). <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs5.asp?ActID=2529&ChapterID=2> However, you may not be aware that Illinois Executive Order 15-09 (January 13, 2015) further restricts gift acceptance beyond the limitations within the Ethics Act.

### What is a gift and who are prohibited sources?

Gifts are defined by the Ethics Act to include, among others, tickets to sporting events, hospitality, specially discounted merchandise or services, entertainment, loans, reimbursement of travel expenses, gratuities, food, drink, cash, and certain honoraria for speaking engagements.

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## Coding Tip CMS Clarifies Questions Regarding ICD-10

CMS and the AMA stated, July 6, that they are making joint efforts to help the provider community transition into ICD-10. This statement included guidance from CMS allowing for flexibility in the claims auditing and quality reporting processes.

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Clarifying-Questions-and-Answers-Related-to-the-July-6-2015-CMS-AMA-Joint-Announcement.pdf>

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