

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 586

Celebrating 40 years of achievements of medical coders, and encouraging the medical coding community to continue providing accurate medical claims and statistical reporting to the people of the United States and to the world.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

Mr. HATCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Celebrating 40 years of achievements of medical coders, and encouraging the medical coding community to continue providing accurate medical claims and statistical reporting to the people of the United States and to the world.

Whereas, in 1966, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) was developed by the American Medical Association (AMA) to assist with the accurate reporting of physician procedures and services, and has since grown to include 8,568 codes and descriptions;

Whereas, in 1977, when the 9th revision to the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) was published, the United States National Center for Health Statistics modified the statistical study with clinical information and provided a way to classify

diagnostic and procedural data to create a clinical picture of each patient to improve the quality of health care;

Whereas, in 1977, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), now the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), was established for the coordination of the Medicare and Medicaid programs and its responsibilities has since included coordinating the annual update to ICD-9-CM Volume 3 procedures codes;

Whereas Congress passed the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-360), and mandated the reporting of ICD-9-CM codes on each part B claim submitted by physicians and that mandate has since extended to parts A, C, and D of the Medicare program;

Whereas the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191) requires every health care provider who does business electronically to use the same code sets, including Current Procedural Terminology, ICD-9-CM, and other code sets involving medical supplies, dental services, and drugs;

Whereas, since 1998 and the publication of the first medical practice compliance plans, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recognized medical coding as an essential element in the fight against health care fraud and abuse;

Whereas, in 2003, the Department of Health and Human Services delegated authority under the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to maintain and distribute the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) that is used primarily to identify products, supplies, and services not included in the Current

Procedural Terminology codes, such as ambulance services and durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) when used outside a physician's office;

Whereas the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–173) included a provision to update ICD–9–CM codes affecting new technology and procedures twice each year;

Whereas, in 2006, the Department of Labor forecasted above average job growth for medical coders through 2012 because of rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be increasingly scrutinized by third-party payers, regulators, courts, and consumers; and

Whereas medical coders have a tradition of working in collaboration with the Federal Government to improve the overall health of all people of the United States through the accuracy of claims reporting: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the historical, clinical, and public
3 health achievements of medical coders and celebrates
4 the milestones achieved in the 40-year history of
5 medical coding;

6 (2) recognizes the great impact that medical
7 coders have on improving the quality of health care
8 of people in the United States and around the world;
9 and

10 (3) congratulates medical coders for their dedi-
11 cation and trusts that the profession will continue to

- 1 offer its guidance relative to medical coding and its
- 2 effect on accurate patient information to improve the
- 3 public health of future generations.

