



# Clinical Documentation Improvement Week

September 16-22, 2012

## What is a clinical documentation improvement (CDI) specialist?

CDI specialists review patient medical records and assess whether all conditions and treatments are documented. This documentation paints an accurate picture of the severity of a patient's illnesses and risk of mortality. When the documentation is unclear or deficient, CDI specialists prompt (also known as "query") physicians to provide clarification. CDI specialists serve as the bridge between health information management and clinical staff. They must comply with Medicare and/or private payer rules and regulations.

## Who are CDI specialists?

CDI specialists include a variety of licensed healthcare providers across multiple disciplines. The most important trait of a CDI specialist is clinical knowledge since they decipher complex medical records and need to be able to recognize treatments and diagnoses that may not be clearly documented. They also need to be comfortable educating busy physicians on documentation requirements. The majority of CDI specialists are RNs, but also include medical record coding professionals, physicians, and quality improvement staff.

## Why is the CDI specialist role emerging?

The growth of the CDI specialist profession has mirrored the healthcare industry's increased focus on compliance with regulations, managed care profiles, payment for services rendered, and liability exposure. All these factors are increasingly dependent on the integrity of complete and specific clinical documentation in the medical record.

## Why is a week of national recognition needed?

**CDI specialists need a week of recognition for the following reasons:**

- To recognize the unique skills and expertise of CDI specialists
- To increase public awareness of the CDI profession
- To positively affect the personal and organizational performance of CDI specialists
- To provide broader education on the importance of the quality connection of documentation of care

## When will the national recognition week take place?

**Clinical Documentation Improvement Week** will occur annually during the third week of September. This year it is September 16-22.

## How was the national recognition week developed?

A work group organized and supported by the **Association of Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists (ACDIS)** convened over several months to plan and organize the event and develop resources and promotional events.

## What resources can I access and where?

The **ACDIS** home page will provide an electronic toolkit for download, which will include an industry overview survey, Q&As conducted with CDI experts, a pair of free webcasts, a downloadable logo and poster, and ideas about how you can celebrate the week in your facility. The toolkit will be posted a few weeks in advance of **Clinical Documentation Improvement Week**. The **ACDIS** website address is [www.cdiassociation.com](http://www.cdiassociation.com).

## What is ACDIS?

**ACDIS** is the premier healthcare community for clinical documentation specialists, providing a medium for education, professional growth, program recognition, and networking. **ACDIS:**

- Began on October 1, 2007
- Has more than 3,200 members and 40 local chapters
- Has developed a code of ethics for CDI specialists
- Has certified more than 900 Certified Clinical Documentation Specialists (CCDS)
- Is wholly owned by HCPro, Inc., a leading provider of information, education, and training products and services in healthcare regulation and compliance

For more information about **ACDIS** and its CDI programs, visit [www.cdiassociation.com](http://www.cdiassociation.com).



To learn more about **ACDIS** and **Clinical Documentation Improvement**, please visit [www.cdiassociation.com](http://www.cdiassociation.com)

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### **FIVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE**

#### **Clinical Documentation Improvement Week in your facility**

1. Place a poster in your nursing units and in the physicians' dictation area about specific documentation requirements of a problematic diagnosis (i.e., CHF, sepsis, encephalopathy). Alternatively, the poster could demonstrate a case study comparing documentation pre- and post-query, showing the change in length of stay, severity of illness, and risk of mortality.
2. During your concurrent reviews try a trivia game with physicians. For example, "Dr. Jones: try to give me a more specific diagnosis for CHF." "Dr. Smith—what's a more specific diagnosis than acute renal insufficiency?" Carry some hard candy to give out as a reward.
3. Write thank you letters to your top docs and NPs/PAs who were especially helpful and cooperative throughout the year. They will enjoy the recognition and praise.
4. Ask your CEO/administrators to write a thank you letter to the CDI staff thanking them for what they do in their role. Surprise your colleagues with the letter!
5. Arrange for a physician to present an inservice on a specific disease process, expected vs. true complications of surgery, etc.