The Association of Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists (ACDIS), the premier healthcare community for clinical documentation professionals, will celebrate its seventh annual week of recognition—Clinical Documentation Improvement Week (CDI Week), September 18-22.

CDI Week occurs annually during the third week of September to increase public awareness of the CDI profession and provide broader education on the importance of proper documentation of medical care in the U.S.

CDI professionals work as intermediaries between physicians and coders, typically in the inpatient acute care setting, but there has been an increased expansion and need for their services in a wide-range of settings for many documentation improvement focus areas over the past decade.

In essence, CDI professionals help physicians translate their clinical language into the highly specified documentation required for healthcare coding by querying physicians when information is incomplete, contradictory, or unclear. During CDI Week, organizations across the country recognize and celebrate the value of CDI programs and the distinct skills and expertise of CDI specialists.

"Clinical documentation is a crucial element of the fast-changing healthcare industry, which is transitioning rapidly to electronic health records and more precise reimbursement policies that rely on standardized coding," said Brian Murphy, CPC, director of ACDIS. "CDI is a growing profession that incorporates the skills and understanding of a variety of other healthcare professionals including nurses, coders, and physicians."

In conjunction with CDI Week, ACDIS conducted its seventh annual CDI Industry Overview Survey, which examines topics such as career advancement, clinical validation, physician engagement, among other items. With the support of CDI Week partners ChartWise Medical Systems, Inc., Nuance, and Optum360, ACDIS will also conduct daily interviews with industry experts and post the interviews on the association's web site.

"CDI professionals are responsible for administering programs that ensure their organizations properly manage documentation in a way that supports accurate, quality health information," said Murphy. "An effective CDI program is essential in order to comply with all major reimbursement audits and support other important initiatives aimed at improving the quality of healthcare in the U.S."

Additional resources for CDI specialists and program directors, including an electronic toolkit, media resources, and communication messages for medical staff and organization-wide education, are available at [www.acdis.org](http://www.acdis.org). More information about CDI Week offerings and activities can be found at <http://www.hcpro.com/acdis/cdi_week>.

**About ACDIS**  
The Association of Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists ([www.ACDIS.org](http://www.ACDIS.org)) is a rapidly growing community of 5,700 members with more than 40 local chapters, in which CDI professionals share the latest tested tips, tools, and strategies to implement successful CDI programs and achieve professional growth. Its mission is to serve as the premier healthcare community for clinical documentation specialists, providing a medium for education, professional growth, program recognition, and networking