



Clinical Documentation Improvement Week

September 19–23, 2016

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 helps paint 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 (HIM) 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 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, increased focus on quality of care improvement measurements, and liability exposure. All these factors increasingly depend 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 19–23.

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 first event and develop resources and promotional items for CDI staff members to use to spread the word about the importance of the profession.

What resources can I access and where?

The CDI Week pages on the **ACDIS** website will include a variety of tools and suggested activities to help CDI programs prepare their own celebrations. Throughout the week, ACDIS will release an industry overview survey, Q&As with CDI experts, a free webcast, and other items. Be sure to check out the archives as well for additional ideas and information.

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 5,000 members and more than 40 local chapters
- Has developed a code of ethics for CDI specialists
- Has certified more than 3,000 Certified Clinical Documentation Specialists (CCDS)
- Is wholly owned by BLR® and 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.acdis.org.



To learn more about **ACDIS** and **Clinical Documentation Improvement**, please visit www.acdis.org

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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 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.