

September 16-20, 2019

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 the extent of the care required. 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. Read the ACDIS position paper, "[CDI: More than a credential](#)," for an in-depth discussion of this topic.

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, 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 to:

- Recognize the unique skills and expertise of CDI specialists
- Increase public awareness of the CDI profession
- Positively affect the personal and organizational performance of CDI specialists
- Provide broader education on the importance of the quality connection of documentation of care

When will the national recognition week take place?

CDI Week occurs annually during the third week of September. This year's celebrations take place September 16–20.

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 professionals to use to spread the word about the importance of the profession.

This year, the CDI Week Planning Committee convened to provide ideas for CDI Week festivities and insight into the yearly CDI Industry Survey through daily Q&As. To see a list of this year's participants, [click here](#).

What resources can I access and where?

The CDI Week pages on the **ACDIS** website will include tools and suggested activities to help programs prepare their own celebrations. Throughout the week, ACDIS will release an industry overview survey, Q&As with CDI experts, a free webinar, and other items.

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 October 1, 2007
- Has more than 6,000 members and more than 40 local chapters and networking groups
- Has developed a code of ethics for CDI specialists
- Has certified more than 4,500 Certified Clinical Documentation Specialists (CCDS)
- Is wholly owned by BLR® and HCPro, a Simplify Compliance brand, a leading provider of information, education, and training products and services in healthcare regulation and compliance.

For more information about **ACDIS**, visit www.acdis.org.

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