



PRESS RELEASE:

AHDI/AHIMA Collaborate to Promote Start-to-Finish Quality Improvement Standards for Healthcare Documentation

AUSTIN, TX, August 4, 2010 — On the heels of the recently announced final rules for meaningful use of EHR systems, implementable standards for improving the quality of the healthcare documentation process will be released this week by the [Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity](#) (AHDI) in collaboration with the [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA). The two associations, who collectively represent and set standards for the professionals charged with capturing and managing America's health encounter information, are sending a message to the sector that accuracy in the capture process will be critical to making sure high-integrity information is consumed and repurposed in the EHR. Leaders from both associations, as well as contributors from the [Medical Transcription Industry Association](#) (MTIA), collaborated to produce [Healthcare Documentation Quality Assessment and Management Practices](#), a resource for establishing a comprehensive transcription QA program for healthcare organizations.

"As an AHIMA representative for this important collaborative work with MTIA and AHDI, I am very proud of this Healthcare Documentation QA Best Practices product," states Wendy Mangin, MS, RHIA, AHIMA past president. "Whether you are a healthcare provider outsourcing your transcription, a healthcare provider who manages transcription in-house, or a medical transcription service provider, the quality of the final patient report is critical to providing quality care to the patient."

AHDI will be promoting the new standard this week at its 32nd Annual Convention and Expo, August 4-7, 2010, in Austin, Texas. In addition, the association will be releasing the newly revised [Dictation Best Practices Tool Kit](#), a resource for improving dictation practices, thereby addressing quality from the document creation point to ensure quality reporting outcomes. The tool kit has been reviewed and endorsed by AHIMA and is being distributed through both association websites.

"These best practices initiatives for improving both dictation and transcription represent a collaborative effort on the part of our associations to send a clear message to our stakeholders and end-users about quality," asserts Susan Lucci, CMT, RHIT, AHDI immediate past-president. "These standards are being rolled out at a critical time, when healthcare is center stage in regulatory and policy discussions. Patient safety and quality outcomes are our most important areas of focus in clinical documentation."



About AHDI

The [Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity](#) (AHDI), is the world's largest professional society representing the clinical documentation sector whose purpose is to set and uphold standards for education and practice in the field of health data capture and documentation that ensure the highest level of accuracy, privacy, and security for the U.S. healthcare system in order to protect public health, increase patient safety, and improve quality of care for healthcare consumers.

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