



*****For Immediate Release*****

AAMT TO CHANGE ITS NAME, PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE TO PROMOTE INTEGRITY IN HEALTHCARE DOCUMENTATION

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Modesto, CA, August 10, 2006 – Restructuring the organization to meet the evolving needs of healthcare delivery was the turnkey issue faced by the American Association for Medical Transcription’s House of Delegates last week at its 28th Annual Convention and Exposition in Boston. The House of Delegates voted on August 2, 2006, to change the name of the association to *Association for Integrity of Healthcare Documentation* and open the membership up to a broader sector of healthcare professionals involved in clinical documentation and data capture.

"The greatest opportunities for improving health and healthcare lie in enabling information exchange across healthcare facilities. By broadening the scope of the association’s mission, building stronger alliances between clinical information specialists and documentation experts, and promoting a new brand for the association to our healthcare publics, we have a greater opportunity for obtaining increased relevance in a transforming marketplace." stated Peter Preziosi, PhD, CAE, Executive Director of AAMT. "As we move forward to implement the reforms approved by the House of Delegates, our primary focus is to figure out how to insert the current skill set of the medical transcriptionist into a clinical pathway that provides *useable, relevant information* at the right time and right location in the health record to inform clinical decision-making."

AAMT’s board of directors and executive director challenged the membership and leadership to consider a new vision for the association and to embrace a new plan for restructuring the organization in alignment with this vision. In addition, the AAMT House of Delegates voted to open up its practitioner membership category to *all* professionals who have a vested role and interest in clinical documentation, with the goal of collaborating with those stakeholder groups in setting a strategic course for the future.

"Convincing an association, whose primary agenda has been meeting the immediate needs of its practitioners, to shift its focus to the broader industry was inarguably a challenging task," stated AAMT 2006 President Vallie Piloian, CMT, FAAMT. "A tremendous amount of

education was engaged in prior to these outcomes and will continue to be embraced moving forward to help usher our members into the future of healthcare delivery."

AAMT anticipates a 6- to 12-month implementation period in transitioning the organization over to its new name and objectives. Members and industry partners can follow this transition via the association's website (www.aamt.org).

The American Association for Medical Transcription (AAMT) has been the professional organization representing medical transcriptionists since 1978. AAMT sets standards of practice and education for medical transcriptionists, administers a certification program, has established a code of ethics, and advocates on behalf of the profession. There are over 135 component associations of AAMT, each of which holds regular educational meetings and symposia. For more information, visit www.aamt.org.