



news

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AHIMA, AHDI Urge Healthcare Organizations to Reinstate Quality Assurance Programs

First of its kind resource kit available to help organizations ensure patient safety

CHICAGO – August 15, 2014 – The absence of a quality assurance (QA) program in electronic health record (EHR) documentation processes can compromise patient care and safety, revenue cycle management and risk management.

To help healthcare organizations focus on the integrity of patient documentation, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI), created a resource kit, [Clinician-Created Documentation: Reinstating Quality Assurance Programs to Safeguard Patients and Providers](#), that provides the tools needed to implement a QA program. It's the first of its kind for healthcare organizations.

The resource kit offers standards for measurement, reporting and documentation improvement that will help promote accuracy in patient records.

“Having a QA program is an essential component to ensuring patient safety,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “AHIMA and AHDI urge healthcare organizations to reinstate QA programs as part of a comprehensive plan that focuses on quality health information.”

While healthcare organizations are implementing clinical documentation improvement (CDI) programs to review for clinical conditions, it's equally important that they also incorporate QA programs to address the quality of all healthcare documentation.

CDI and QA are different— a CDI program facilitates the accurate representation of a patient's clinical status that translates into coded data, while a QA program is the complete review of the narrative and demographic data to protect the patient, caregiver and the organization's documentation integrity.

“Incorporating both programs will ensure documentation integrity and regulatory compliance throughout the healthcare continuum,” said AHDI CEO Linda Brady, CAE. “By creating this resource kit, we're giving healthcare organizations the tools to implement this program.”

The Resource Kit provides a set of explanatory and operational tools that can be adapted by users for their own needs.

The resource kit currently includes:

- PowerPoint presentation that highlights the differences between CDI and QA programs
- QA program checklist
- QA program sample policies and procedures
- QA categories
- QA review form and sample
- Dashboard best practices
- Dashboard templates and samples
- Model job descriptions

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 71,000 health information management and health informatics professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. www.ahima.org

About AHDI

Established in 1978, the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI) is a not-for-profit association representing the individuals and organizations in healthcare documentation. AHDI's purpose is to protect the integrity of patients' health information through continuous workforce development and the support of practitioners and industry partners. Learn more about AHDI by visiting our website, www.ahdionline.org.