



news

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AHIMA: Clinical Documentation Programs Must Improve for Quality Patient Care

Report from AHIMA's CDI Summit Provides Insight on the Future of CDI

CHICAGO – Nov. 3, 2014 – In order for physicians and patients to appreciate the full benefits of programs like Meaningful Use and ICD-10, the amount and type of information captured during each patient visit must continue to advance, according to a new report from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

The [white paper](#), based on poll results, observations and sessions from AHIMA's Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) Summit in Washington, D.C., in August, was developed to better explain how organizations are currently using CDI programs and what can be done to move them forward.

The report discusses the need to make a stronger case about how improved documentation is not only about reimbursement, but essential to make sure patients receive safe and effective care. Hospitals and providers, in all settings, also need to start viewing data captured as not just about one patient visit, but part of a comprehensive data set across the continuum of care.

"Accurate documentation is at the core of telling that patient's story and ensuring safe and effective care," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "This goes beyond more accurate reimbursement to understanding how improved documentation benefits patient care. CDI programs are necessary for consistent and complete documentation."

According to the results of one CDI Summit poll, 80 percent of respondents said they used CDI programs across a mix of all payers. This could mean that CDI programs are progressing past the need for reimbursement and focusing on greater rewards such as quality measurement and patient safety.

Over the next 12 months, AHIMA hopes healthcare organizations can identify current documentation gaps, achieve documentation excellence and provide ongoing education to clinical providers. A full copy of the report is available [here](#).

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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