



**news**

233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Fl.  
Chicago, IL 60601

phone >>(312) 233-1100  
fax >>(312) 233-1090  
web >>www.ahima.org

**For more information, please contact:**

Lauren Kotarski

Public Communications Inc.

312-558-1770

lkortarski@pcipr.com

## **More Important Than Ever**

*Journal of AHIMA article examines current state of clinical documentation improvement*

**CHICAGO – July 11, 2016** – As the healthcare profession navigates through the first year of ICD-10 implementation and the transition to value-based care, clinical documentation improvement (CDI) is more important than ever. The July issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* takes the temperature of CDI in the article, "[Querying Through the Chaos: How to Get Docs' Attention Amidst the Digital Healthcare Haze.](#)"

"Detailed and accurate clinical documentation is integral to improving the overall quality of healthcare," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "Precise documentation leads to better patient care and more informed data about patient outcomes."

Successful CDI programs provide immediate and long-term benefits. Not only does CDI provide information to all members of the care team, but those who treat the patient at a later date benefit from the thorough and detailed documentation of the patient story.

The *Journal* article details how CDI teams face distinct challenges based on whether their physician offices and hospitals use electronic health records (EHR), hybrid paper/electronic systems or just paper-based records. CDI teams – who sometimes have to work remotely – are charged with finding the best way to make sure physicians respond to their queries. Clear and precise communication is a best practice that applies regardless of whether the CDI teams work in-house or remotely.

### **Also in this issue:**

The article, "[Impact of Clinical Documentation Improvement on the International Stage.](#)" takes a global view and highlights why standardization is needed so that providers can look beyond the boundaries of one country or patient population when researching treatments. In the article, Deborah Green, MBA, RHIA, AHIMA executive vice president and chief innovation and global services officer, said that CDI is needed regardless of where healthcare is delivered. "Healthcare delivery system transformation, privatization of care, contracting for care, and even types of value-based purchasing are emerging. I believe all of these are contributing to the level of interest we are seeing in CDI programs and certification outside the U.S."

Read these articles and more in the July issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* or online at [journal.ahima.org](http://journal.ahima.org).

###

#### **About AHIMA**

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality 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](http://www.ahima.org)