



**news**

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## **Quality Coding's Effect On Quality Reporting**

*Journal of AHIMA article highlights importance of  
using CDI to meet value-based reforms*

**CHICAGO – Sept. 29, 2016** – Robust clinical document improvement (CDI) programs are a key way for providers to comply with the slew of new value-based and quality reporting programs such as the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and Merit-based Incentive Payment Systems (MIPS).

This topic is explored in the September issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* in the article, "[Don't Leave Money on the Table: Mastering MACRA, PQRS, and Value-Based Purchasing: How Quality Coding Impacts Quality Reporting.](#)"

"Strong CDI programs have never been more important," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "HIM professionals can educate physicians on the changing documentation landscape and play an integral role in helping providers comply with these programs. As a result, demand for CDI specialists is expected to increase."

The article noted that providers should take advantage of every existing resource they have – especially optimizing electronic health records (EHRs). While there may be an up-front cost, this can help with CDI over the long term.

**Also in this issue:**

It has always been dangerous when an incorrect patient is registered/admitted/documented on another patient's medical record. But now with EHRs, one mistake can be catastrophic as the patient-level information can be easily called up on subsequent visits.

This specific patient misidentification problem, often referred to as an "overlay," is the focus of the story, "[Study Analyzes Causes and Consequences of Patient Overlay Errors.](#)" The article details the results of a study by a leading eight-hospital, multi-state healthcare organization that tracked and kept detailed statistics on overlay errors over a period of five years.

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

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#### **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)