



**news**

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## **Updated AHIMA Toolkit Provides New Guidance on Creating Structured Clinical Documentation Improvement Programs**

*CDI provides critical bridge between providers, HIM professionals*

**CHICAGO – August 9, 2016** – At the center of healthcare today is the need to provide guidance through a sea of regulations and fraud, ultimately assuring accuracy in health information. Clinical documentation improvement (CDI) is the bridge that connects clinical care providers to both coding professions and external resources to ensure accurate quality reports.

A newly updated [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) [CDI Toolkit](#) for health information management (HIM) professionals offers guidance on developing and maintaining a structured program. It also reflects recent changes in documentation requirements and ways to measure success in CDI programs.

“Clinical documentation improvement programs are the center of healthcare today, as they serve as a crucial map to guide accurate, timely and consistent information,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “The transition to ICD-10 has intensified the need for this high-quality clinical documentation, but such results cannot be achieved without a structured program. With this toolkit, AHIMA provides the necessary tools and documents needed for ensuring a robust CDI program.”

Updated topics in the 2016 revision of AHIMA’s CDI toolkit include:

- Changes in documentation requirements and approval procedures
- Metrics for analyzing data to determine the success of the program
- The role and benefits of the physician advisor in CDI
- How to hire the right individuals to start a CDI program
- Revised information regarding the use of secondary coded data and how it affects quality measures and third party audits

The toolkit also includes several appendices to further improve CDI program implementation and hiring:

- Sample job descriptions
- A checklist for CDI orientation training

- A sample 90-day evaluation form
- Key monthly metric reports and graphs
- Query or clarification monitoring samples

The toolkit is free for AHIMA members and can be found online in AHIMA's HIM Body of Knowledge and on [AHIMA's web store](#).

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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)