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## **AHDI INTRODUCES HEALTHCARE DOCUMENTATION SPECIALIST TITLE**

*New Title Established to Reflect the Broad Range of Expertise, Skills, and Services  
Performed by the Evolving Medical Transcriptionist*

**Modesto, CA, May 30, 2012**—The broad and extensive responsibilities and services performed by healthcare documentation specialists serve critical roles in the creation of accurate and comprehensive patient care records. The healthcare documentation specialist, also called medical transcriptionist, understands medical language, clinical practice, and the basics of health IT, with resumes and credentials attesting to that expertise. The healthcare documentation specialist is well versed in the requirements of HIPAA and HITECH, and the workflow and processes in clinical documentation. At the front of the healthcare documentation continuum, healthcare documentation specialists apply their knowledge and expertise to perform a variety of roles in patient data capture.

Healthcare documentation specialists transcribe voice files, edit dictation produced through speech recognition, and perform quality assessment reviews to ensure accuracy and completeness. According to a 2011 *Future Roles in the EHR* survey conducted by AHDi and Bentley University, new roles are emerging for healthcare documentation specialists in the electronic health record (EHR). These include entering critical encounter information directly into an EHR system, monitoring EHR documentation to ensure accuracy and completeness, and performing quality assessment reviews. Healthcare documentation specialists are second only to physicians in the amount of content inputted directly into the EHR.

This new title for medical transcriptionists has been adopted in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of AHDi's Model Curriculum for Healthcare Documentation Programs, which will be released this year. This latest edition affirms AHDi's commitment to the highest standards in education and training in healthcare documentation. The changes in healthcare information and documentation continue to offer new opportunities for well-educated, well-trained individuals; and this latest edition has been repurposed as an educational program for a broadly conceived suite of still-emerging roles under the label of healthcare documentation.

AHDi believes that the expanding and emerging healthcare documentation roles build upon the core knowledge and skill sets of traditional medical transcription. The title healthcare documentation specialist encompasses individuals who build on the core knowledge and skills to follow varied career paths. Healthcare documentation specialists are trained to look for and identify potential errors in the medical record, no matter how the record was created. Healthcare documentation specialists forge a partnership with clinicians to ensure accurate and complete documentation—working together for patient safety.

### **About AHDi**

The [Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity](#) (AHDi) is the world's largest professional society representing the healthcare documentation sector whose purpose is to set and uphold standards for education and practice in the field of health data capture and documentation that ensure the highest level of accuracy, privacy, and security for the U.S. healthcare system in order to protect public health, increase patient safety, and improve quality of care for healthcare consumers.

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