

flourish

CDI IN BLOOM | **acdis 2023**

May 8–11

📍 HYATT REGENCY, CHICAGO, IL

# Program Guide

 **acdis**  
acdis.org

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# Simplify Compliance Event Policies

**By registering for and attending a Simplify Compliance event, you are agreeing to the following terms:**

**Content & Promotional Rights:** I agree not to copy or distribute or permit to be copied or distributed, in any form or format, any of the contents of the event materials or attendee profiles without the express written permission of Simplify Compliance. I also agree not to use the event contents for any commercial, marketing, promotional, or political purposes. Simplify Compliance does not permit solicitation by anyone except exhibitors within the area of their booth.

**Recording:** I understand that Simplify Compliance prohibits me from recording any educational session content, including via social media feeds, unless I have obtained written permission in advance.

**Photography:** I understand that Simplify Compliance and its contractors record, photograph, and/or stream the various aspects and activities related to its events for both archival and promotional purposes. By attending this event, I give Simplify Compliance and its contractors permission to use my voice and image in any such archival or promotional recording, photograph, or streaming activity without any compensation or credit.

**Communications:** I provide permission to receive emails, mailings, and faxes related to the Simplify Compliance event. I understand that by choosing to attend the event, I consent to share my business contact information with event sponsors. I understand that sponsors may choose to follow up with me after the event and that I may choose to opt out of communications from each party individually at any time. I understand that both the Simplify Compliance privacy policy, and the privacy policies of the event's sponsors, govern the use of my business contact information.

**Respectful Conduct:** We expect event participants to behave responsibly and to treat each other—and treat the community—with respect, kindness, and compassion. Simplify Compliance reserves the right, without refund, to revoke the credentials of participants whose conduct is deemed inappropriate, disorderly, or offensive by Simplify Compliance, affiliated third parties, or the local authorities.

## Event Programming

**Speakers:** Views expressed by speakers are their own. Simplify Compliance cannot accept liability for advice given, or views expressed, by any speaker at the event or in any material provided to attendees.

**Curriculum:** Simplify Compliance aims to provide accurate and up-to-date information, but please be aware that the event's agenda is subject to change. We may not alert registrants to changes in the schedule unless a change has an impact on continuing education units or event start/end times.

**Competitors:** Simplify Compliance reserves the right to deny event access to registrants who are employed by or represent a company we deem as competitive. In the case of a paid event, we will refund registrants and notify them of the termination of their registration.

## Health & Safety

Simplify Compliance and ACDIS/HCPPro place the highest priority on the safety of our guests. To safeguard all those in attendance at our events, we ask that you stay in your room if you are feeling sick, have tested positive for COVID-19, are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. Please contact our Customer Service department to talk through options or to move your registration to a future date.

Simplify Compliance reserves the right, at its sole discretion, without refund, to expel and deactivate and/or revoke the attendance credentials of participants who violate safety provisions.

**Badge Swapping:** For security reasons, Simplify Compliance does not permit badge swapping. We will evict from the event, without a refund, anyone found wearing a badge that does not match their identification. In addition, we will cancel the badge/name.

**Weapons:** Simplify Compliance has a weapons-free policy. We prohibit attending participants from carrying weapons of any kind, including concealed or displayed firearms. We do not permit participants to bring weapons onto the premises of any Simplify Compliance events. Simplify Compliance reserves the right, at its sole discretion, without refund, to expel and deactivate and/or revoke the attendance credentials of participants who violate this weapons-free policy. Participants agree that this policy is in force, and agree to comply with the policy, regardless of whether the event they are attending has posted signs prohibiting weapons.

## Agreement

I agree to all the terms and conditions set forth above. I understand that my attendance is voluntary and at my own risk, and I voluntarily accept any and all risks and hazards, including, without limitation, personal injury, illness, or other hazards. I hereby release Simplify Compliance and its officers, employees, partners, contractors, and vendors from any liability related to my attendance. I understand that noncompliance with these rules and policies may result in registration cancellation without refund. Simplify Compliance reserves the right to expel anyone in violation of these rules and policies from the event.

## Customer Service Department

If you require additional assistance or have any questions, representatives are available Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CT. Please call us at 800-650-6787 or email [customerservice@hcpro.com](mailto:customerservice@hcpro.com).

# Welcome to Chicago and the 2023 ACDIS national conference!

**Taking time out of your day-to-day life** to focus on your career, your skills, and your community can help you recharge, build your support network, boost your confidence, and above all help you **Flourish**.

ACDIS 2023 has a packed schedule, so let me help you by covering some of the highlights of these busy days.

## Flower power

You may notice that ACDIS is showered in flowers this year. This is to celebrate the life and spirit of Melissa Varnavas, long-time ACDIS editor, who passed away last year. Melissa loved flowers, and to celebrate her beautiful spirit and honor her memory, flower pins are available at the registration desk. We invite you to join the ACDIS team in wearing these signs of sunshine in memory of Melissa.

## Opening reception in the exhibit hall: Monday, May 8

Join us in the exhibit hall for our opening reception, where you can enjoy drinks and nibbles and get a chance to visit with our exhibitors.

First time at ACDIS? If you're new to the conference and want to meet other first-timers, come to the ACDIS booth at 5:00 p.m. and look for the table with a sign saying "First-Time Attendees." Join the group to make new connections, get tips and tricks from ACDIS staff in navigating the conference, and meet some of our CDI Boot Camp instructors.

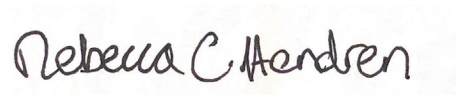
## Keynotes and networking

Here are some highlights of our three days of sessions:

- Tuesday, May 9 at 8:00 a.m.: Our first full day kicks off with former ACDIS director Brian Murphy followed by the presentation of the ACDIS Achievement Awards.
- Tuesday, May 9 at 12:30–1:30 p.m.: During lunch in the exhibit hall, you can join discussion groups dedicated to outpatient CDI, pediatric CDI, CDI educators/second-level reviewers, and new and aspiring leaders.
- Wednesday, May 10 at 8:00 a.m.: ACDIS Interim Director Laurie Prescott invites us to live our lives and Flourish, followed by Jermaine Davis, EdD, walking us through how to excel from the inside out.
- Wednesday, May 10 at 12:30–1:45 p.m.: It's state chapter day! During lunch, look to see if there's a table for your state so you can meet local colleagues.
- Thursday, May 11 at 8:00 a.m.: Amelia Rose Earhart shares how she took her famous namesake's adventurous spirit to heart and recreated her awe-inspiring journey.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to stop by the registration desk and speak to our friendly conference staff. Or pop by the ACDIS booth and say hello to one of the team.

We hope you have a wonderful, fulfilling, and memorable time with us at ACDIS 2023!



**Rebecca Hendren,**  
**ACDIS Director of Programming**



**WELCOME**

## WiFi Information

Enjoy free WiFi throughout the conference space!

Network name: **Hyatt\_Conference** (no username required)

Password: **ACDIS2023**

## Resource Hub

The materials and resources for all sessions can be found on the **2023 ACDIS Conference** Resource Hub:

<https://events.simplifycompliance.com/cdi05082023-resources>

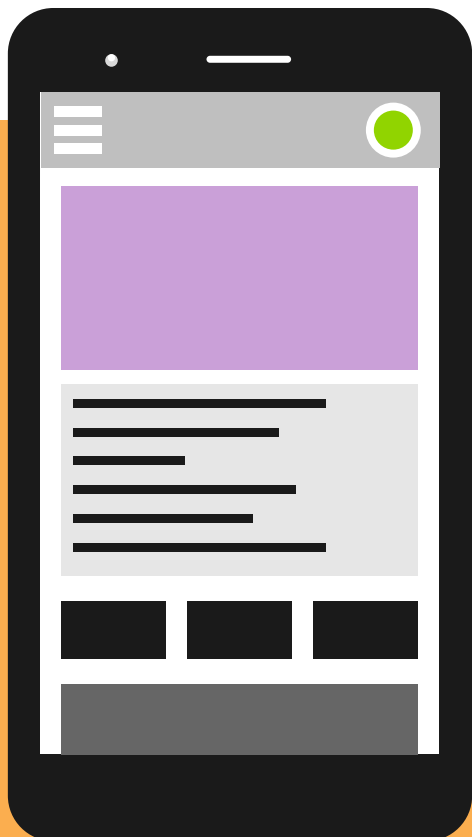
You can also access all of the materials on our interactive event app. Please see the “Event App Instructions” section of this program guide for more information.

### Play Our In-App Scavenger Hunt

#### Scavenger Hunt Instructions

1. After logging in to the event app, tap the **Scavenger Hunt** icon on the homepage.
2. Follow the challenge clues to find passcodes in various locations around the event space.
3. Enter each passcode into the app to earn points!

A winner will be chosen at random from those who place within the top 10 on the leaderboard and announced during the exhibit hall finale on Wednesday, May 10 at 3:15 p.m.



## Use Your Mobile Device

- 1. Download the app:** Access the “App Store” on iOS devices or the “Play Store” on Android.
- 2. Install the app:** Search for **Webex Events**. Once you’ve found the app, tap either “Get” or “Install.” After installing, a new icon will appear on the home screen.
- 3. Sign in:** Once downloaded, open the Webex Events app and enter the email address you used to register for the event.
- 4. Create a password:** Create your own password and tap “Sign Up.” Review your profile information and tap “Continue.”
- 5. Join the event:** On the next page, you will see a listing of the app events you have access to. Tap **2023 ACDIS Conference** from the list to enter the app.



## Use Your Computer

- 1. Go to the website:** <https://app.socio.events/MjIwNzI%3D>.
- 2. Enter your information:** Enter the email address used to register for the event, then click “Continue.” Create your own password and click “Sign Up.”
- 3. Join the event:** Review your profile information and click “Continue” to enter the web version of the app.

If you are experiencing any technical difficulties with the app, please email [virtualappsupport@blr.com](mailto:virtualappsupport@blr.com) with the subject line **ACDIS Conference App Assistance** or contact customer service at **800-650-6787**.

If you are currently at the event, please visit the registration desk and ask a team member for assistance.

## ACDIS Boards and Committees: Thank You for Your Service!

ACDIS would like to thank the following individuals for their dedication in making ACDIS the best association it can be:

### Advisory Board

**Task:** *Providing leadership, expertise, and an industry voice for the ACDIS membership.*  
 Sheri Blanchard, Tracy Boldt, Jennifer Eaton, Emily Emmons, Susan Fantin, Vaughn Matacale, Chinedum Mogbo, Christopher Petrilli, Laurie Prescott, Autumn Reiter, Kelly Sutton, Aimee Van Balen, and Lena N. Wilson.

### Certification Committees

**CCDS Committee–Task:** *Maintaining and updating the Certified Clinical Documentation Specialist (CCDS) credential program, including the exam and its prerequisites.*

Marie Bourque-Namer, Sharme Brodie, Mary Carol Brouwer, Cheryl Ericson, Patricia Henry, Dorene Hughes, Fran Jurcak, Roshan Shetty, Dawn Valdez, Susanne Warford, Gail Weldon, and Irina Zusman.

**CCDS-O Committee–Task:** *Maintaining and updating the CCDS-O (outpatient) certification program, including the exam and its prerequisites.*

Tracy Boldt, Judy Dokken, Tamara A. Hicks, Fran Jurcak, James Manz, Shannon E. McCall, Karen Newhouser, Diana Ortiz, Laurie Prescott, Jessica M. Vaughn, Yvonne Whitley, and Michelle M. Wiczorek.

### Chapter Advisory Board

**Task:** *Serving as liaisons between local chapter leaders and ACDIS national administration by participating on chapter leadership conference calls, promoting best practice, and providing guidance to leaders across the country.*

Leola Burke, Amy Bush, Denise Deter, Ella Elizee, Carol McNutt, Keri Miller, Janell Murray, Angelica Naylor, Paula Rector, Rani Stoddard, Jenny Taylor, and Ashley Vahey.

### Diversity & Inclusion Task Force

**Task:** *Making CDI a community that embodies social responsibility through promoting a positive environment of greater diversity and inclusion across all cultures, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, and educational backgrounds; breaking the silence that accompanies discrimination and inequity; and ensuring that all feel valued, empowered, and welcomed.*

Daizy Chan-Kumpa, Sandra Chotalal-Lachman, Ella Elizee, Okemena Ewoterai, Maria Mann, Tiara Minor, Chinedum Mogbo, Buddy Morgan, Angelica Naylor, Phyllis Lotus Stevenson, and Melody Tyiska.

### Events Committee

**Task:** *Selecting all speakers and sessions for ACDIS online and in-person events, as well as the ACDIS Achievement Awards winners.*

Johanne “Jo” Brautigam, Angie Comfort, Andrea J. Eastwood, Karen Elmore, Teri Escalona Amador, Denice Hebert, Linda Jackson, Ellen Jantzer, Diane Kenney, Caryn Nowak, Tina Scarborough, Sandra Thomas, Margie Watson, and Laura Werner.

### Furthering Education Committee

**Task:** *Maintaining and updating the ACDIS CDI Scholarship Program and planning the annual CDI Week activities.*

Leyna Belcher, Maria Garcia “GiGi” Donohue, Maricus Gibbs, Maryn Griffin, Jeanne Johnson, Tina Medrano, Hiral Patel, Alyce Reavis, Brian Simpson, Lashondra Tate, and Ashley Wells.

### Regulatory Committee

**Task:** *Reviewing regulatory policy and coding and clinical updates, commenting to agencies on behalf of ACDIS, and providing summary, interpretation, and analysis to the ACDIS membership.*

Haaris Ali, Sharme Brodie, Lynette Byerly, Andrea Eastwood, Cheryl Ericson, Julian Everett, Wendy Haney, Faisal Hussain, Angelica Naylor, and Susan Wallace.

### Resource Library Committee

**Task:** *Reviewing materials donated to the ACDIS community for publication in the Resource Library resource pages for accuracy, compliance, relevance, and effectiveness.*

Chinwe Anyika, Laurie Baker, Melissa Crigger, Alicia Gordon, Elizabeth Harvey, Crystal Incorvaia, Stacey Jackson, Amy Kirk, Lee Anne Landon, Dawn Miller, Natalie Negro, Keri Smith, Ashley Walker, Brittani Winkler, and Tammy Yohan.

Posters can be found in the exhibit hall and are arranged in alphabetical order by title. Creators will be available to discuss their work during the networking break from 10:45—11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10.

### Creating an Objective Query Compliance Audit Reporting Tool

Keri Miller, BSN, RN, CCDS, CCS  
*kxm1473@miami.edu*

### DRG Optimization & FME Innovation

Ehab Isaac, MD, CCDS, CDIP, CCS, CRCR,  
 LaKisha B. Richardson, BSN, RN, CCDS, CCS, and  
 Shesta Varner, RN, CCS, CCDS, CCRN Alumnus  
*Ehab.Isaac@EnsembleHP.com,*  
*Lakisha.Richardson@EnsembleHP.com, and*  
*Shesta.Varner@EnsembleHP.com*

### Education Driving CDI Results

T. Nichole Baca, BS, BSN, RN, CCDS  
*tbaca@r1rcm.com*

### The Harms Process. Is CDI the Chart Police?

Marcia Floyd, RN-BSN, CCDS  
*marcia.floyd@lpnt.net*

### Hidden Gems of Revenue in the CDI Workflow and Process

Deanne Wilk, MPS, BSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O,  
 CDIP, CCS  
*dwilk@acdis.org*

### How the Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools Create Efficiency Within Clinical Documentation Integrity Specialist's Daily Workflows

TaraJo Gillerlain, MSN, RN, CCDS, and  
 Megan Schneider, MSN, RN, CCDS  
*tjgillerlain@mmm.com and mschneider9@mmm.com*

### Impact of Clinical Documentation Improvement in the Emergency Department

Blanca Arguello, BSN, RN, Cynthia Beal, MBA-HCM,  
 BSN, RN, Stephanie McQueen, MSHS, BSN, RN,  
 Renee Pate, MSOL, MSN Ed., RN, CCDS,  
 Kathleen M. Romero, MSN, RN, EBP-C, and  
 Vajeeha Sadi-Ali, MD  
*blanca.arguello@va.gov,*  
*cynthia.beal@va.gov, stephanie.mcqueen@va.gov,*  
*renee.pate@va.gov, kathleen.romero@va.gov,*  
*and vajeeha.sadi-ali@va.gov*

### Impact of COVID-19 on Mid-Revenue Professional

Muhammad Taha Farooq, MD, CCS, CDIP, CCDS  
*tahafarooq990@gmail.com*

### Increased Malnutrition Documentation by Collaborating With Dieticians

Pamela McCall, RN, BSN, CPN, CCM, and  
 Marietta Morhardt, RN, BSN, CPN, CCM  
*pmccall@childrensomaha.org and*  
*mmorhardt@childrensomaha.org*

### Little Babies, BIG Impact!

Kara Lawrence, RN, CCDS,  
 Christina Perkins, RN, BSN, CCDS, CIC,  
 Haris Pervaiz, RHIA, CDIP, CDEI, CCS, CCS-P, CRC,  
 and V. Jayme Roberts, RN, BSN, CCDS  
*Kara.lawrence@ensemblehp.com,*  
*Christina.perkins@ensemblehp.com,*  
*Haris.pervaiz@ensemblehp.com, and*  
*Voris.roberts@ensemblehp.com*



## **The Many Hats of a Clinical Documentation Specialist**

Diane Kenney, RN, BSN, CCDS,  
Michele Thornton, RN, BSN, CCDS, and  
Rebecca Truett, RN, MSN, MBA, CCDS, CCA, CDIP  
*dhkenney@novanthealth.org,*  
*methornton@novanthealth.org,* and  
*rtruett@novanthealth.org*

## **Maturing a Pediatric Outpatient CDI Program for Risk Stratification**

Lisa Adkins, MSN, RN, CPNP, Viji Anchan, MSN, RN,  
and Valerie Bica, BSN, RN  
*ladkins@nemours.org, viji.anchan@nemours.org,*  
and *vbica@nemours.org*

## **Navigating CDI Through Ever-Changing Water**

Patricia Barry, RN, M.Ed., CCDS, Jennifer Cushing,  
RN, BSN, CCDS, Stacey Lunetta, RN, MPH, CPHRM,  
CCDS, and Jessica Meehan, RN, BSN, CCDS  
*pbarry2@bidmc.harvard.edu,*  
*jcushing@bidmc.harvard.edu,*  
*slunetta@bidmc.harvard.edu,*  
and *jmeehan@bidmc.harvard.edu*

## **Query Reduction Utilizing Physician Input and Documentation Adaptation**

Marietta Morhardt, RN, BSN, CPN, CCM, and  
Pamela McCall, RN, BSN, CPN, CCM  
*mmorhardt@childrensomaha.org* and  
*pmccall@childrensomaha.org*

## **Reaction to Evolvement Changes—Moving Chapter Meetings Online in Response to Pandemic**

Katrina Allen, MS, RN, CCDS, and  
James H. Doster, MS, BSN, CCDS  
*krallen05@aol.com* and  
*james.doster@atriumhealth.org*

## **Safety Check, Knock Out PSIs and HACs**

Valeria Parent, RN, CCDS  
*vparent@northernlight.org*

## **A Series of Extraordinary Events—How We Successfully Doubled Our Team in a New Remote World**

Alisha Gregg, BSN, RN, and  
Linda Owens, BSN, RN, CCDS  
*alisha.gregg@froedtert.com* and  
*linda.owens@froedtert.com*

## **Sepsis Deep Dive: A Focus on LOS, Readmission Rates, and Denials: Be Aware of the Trends and Be Prepared**

Danit Fischtein, MD, IBLCE, BscN,  
Jennifer Bushman, RN, CCDS,  
Lynn Miller, DO, FACOS, and  
Victoria Weinert, RHIT, CDIP, CCS  
*danit.fischtein@accuityhealthcare.com* and  
*lynn.miller@accuityhealthcare.com*

## **The Standard Workflow of Sutter Health Second-Level Review and Its Impact to the CDI Productivity**

Lourdes A. Cacanindin, MD, CCDS, and  
Stephen Tabaquin, MD, CDIP  
*lourdes.cacanindin@sutterhealth.org* and  
*stephen.tabaquin@sutterhealth.org*

## **Stop Throwing Money in the Garbage by Appealing Clinical Validation Denials**

Laura McLaughlin, BSN, RN, CCDS  
*laura.mclaughlin@froedtert.com*

## **Understanding Expected Mortality—CDI Perspective**

Christine Allen, MSN, RN,  
Jeneth Esquivel-Salinas, MSN, RN, CCDS, and  
Emilie Navidad-McDermid, BS-RN, CCDS  
*callen@northshore.org,*  
*Jeneth.esquivel-salinas@EEHealth.org,* and  
*enavidad@uic.edu*

## **Understanding Spinal Fusions: A Guide to Improved Chart Reviews and Clinical Correlations**

Lynn Miller, DO, FACOS, and  
Danit Fischtein, MD, IBLCE, BscN  
*lynn.miller@accuityhealthcare.com* and  
*danit.fischtein@accuityhealthcare.com*

## **Utilizing CDI for Building a Biorepository of PGHD to Address Population Health and Risk Adjustment at Acute Care**

Samy Allam, MD, MHA  
*Samy.Allam77@yahoo.com*



You'll find sessions for all experience levels and backgrounds in each of the conference tracks for 2023:

### Track 1: CLINICAL & CODING

A much-loved conference staple including core clinical and coding components vital to all those engaged in ongoing medical record reviews, perfect for those new to CDI as well as for those who wish to expand or refresh their knowledge

### Track 2: CDI MASTER CLASS

For those who wish to expand their professional skills and explore advanced concepts in CDI

### Track 3: QUALITY & REGULATORY

An opportunity to explore the ways regulatory initiatives affect CDI practices, and the ways programs are meeting new challenges, by examining how documentation affects quality of care outcomes

### Track 4: MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

A track devoted to expanding program parameters and innovating CDI staff/management experiences and expertise

### Track 5: INNOVATION & EXPANSION

An exploration of cutting-edge advancements including nontraditional settings, concurrent coding, data analytics, and outpatient CDI

## Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this educational activity, the learner will be able to:

- Describe the top three clinical indicators necessary to create effective queries for common diagnoses
- List two data elements necessary to ensure your CDI program's return on investment
- Define metrics to support physician education and engagement
- Determine which quality of care elements your CDI program can best address
- Identify CDI program measures to ensure staff productivity and professional growth
- Discuss which settings provide opportunities for CDI program growth and advancement

### ***Obtain your CEUs online***

Please see the separate "CEU Information" insert for a full list of available CEUs. This information is also available in the event app and as a download in the Resource Center.

In order to receive your continuing education certificate for this program, you must complete the online evaluation at the link below within two weeks of the event:

**<https://events.simplifycompliance.com/acdis23>**

Please note that the evaluation will not be activated and available to complete until the event concludes on **Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. CT.**

Your certificate will be emailed to you upon successful completion and submission of the evaluation. Please check your junk or spam mail folder if you do not receive your certificate soon after submission.

### **Disclosure Statement**

Please note the planners, presenter(s), and contributors to this activity have disclosed no relevant financial relationships with any commercial companies pertaining to this activity.

## DAY 1 / MONDAY, MAY 8

2:00–7:00 p.m. REGISTRATION (GRAND BALLROOM FOYER)

4:00–7:00 p.m. **EXHIBIT HALL GRAND OPENING AND WELCOME RECEPTION**

(RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)

5:00 p.m.: FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE NETWORKING—NEAR THE ACDIS BOOTH

WELCOME RECEPTION RAFFLE PRIZES

5:00 p.m.: WIN A KATE SPADE HANDBAG

6:00 p.m.: WIN A FITBIT VERSA 3

7:00 p.m.: WIN AN APPLE TV

*Must be present to win.*

## DAY 2 / TUESDAY, MAY 9 (PURPLE & ORANGE DAY)

Attendees are encouraged to wear ACDIS colors (purple and orange!) in celebration of the profession.

7:00–7:45 a.m. REGISTRATION (GRAND BALLROOM FOYER) & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)

8:00–8:30 a.m. KEYNOTE SESSION /

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING... YOU: LESSONS IN AUTHENTICITY

Brian Murphy

(GRAND BALLROOM)

We are all born with a unique soul and a one-of-a-kind voice. But many of us have grown afraid to be ourselves, or it's been conditioned out of us in the world of work. Ultimately, we need a better approach in order to bring our best selves to work and to life. We need to leverage the power of our individuality and unique gifts through authenticity.

ACDIS was blessed with a unique voice. For the better part of its first 15 years, Melissa Varnavas served our community with her words and actions. Her focus included growing and serving ACDIS local chapters and developing the education—and fun—at the national conference. Through being herself—a poet and a free spirit—Melissa infused ACDIS with the character its members have come to appreciate and love. Melissa lost a brave battle with breast cancer in August 2022, but her spirit continues to be felt in all that the association stands for today. Join former ACDIS Director Brian Murphy as he returns to the stage to discuss the importance of authenticity in work and in life. He will talk about his journey of authenticity, share memories of working with Melissa, and honor her lasting contributions to the organization.

8:30–9:15 a.m. **PRESENTATION OF THE ACDIS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Rebecca Hendren and Laurie L. Prescott, MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP, CRC

(GRAND BALLROOM)

Come celebrate the 2023 winners of the ACDIS Achievement Awards and hear how these incredible individuals have flourished in the profession. We'll also announce the winning organization in the drawing for \$5,000 in CDI education and resources!

9:30–10:30 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### Track 1 / **CLINICAL & CODING**

##### Spinal Procedures: Code It Right!

Leigh Poland, RHIA, CCS, CDIP

(GRAND BALLROOM CD)

During this session, attendees will learn about the information required to accurately assign the characters of a spinal fusion procedure code. Additionally, this session will identify those procedures performed during a spinal fusion that are considered integral and are not assigned additional codes—versus those that are not considered integral and are assigned separate codes. The session will also describe common CCs/MCCs seen with these procedures as well as how these procedure codes impact the MS-DRG and reimbursement.

#### Track 2 / **CDI MASTER CLASS**

##### Expanding Diversity in CDI

Ella Elizee, MSN, APRN, CCDS; Tiara Minor, RN, BSN, CCDS; and Chinedum Mogbo, MBBS, MBA, MSHIM, RHIA, CDIP, CCDS, CCS

(GRAND BALLROOM AB)

Join members of the ACDIS Diversity and Inclusion Committee for a panel discussion about diversity and its place in CDI. The panel will discuss the diversity of professionals who work in CDI and how to make the most of everyone's unique skills; share best practices for hiring more people with diverse backgrounds; and have an engaging discussion about how to help everyone be their authentic selves in the workplace. This lively session will encourage questions from the audience and sharing of personal experiences.

**SCAVENGER HUNT PASSCODE:  
LSFJ22K**

Agenda and speakers subject to change. All times listed per event location. Please refer to the event app for the most up-to-date listings for each session.

## Track 3 / **QUALITY & REGULATORY**

### **Guidelines for Achieving a Compliant Query Practice: The 2022 AHIMA/ACDIS Update**

Tammy Combs, RN, MSN, CDIP, CCS, CNE, and Laurie L. Prescott, MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP, CRC

#### **(GRAND BALLROOM EF)**

Join AHIMA's Tammy Combs and ACDIS' Laurie Prescott for an informative discussion—and opportunity to ask questions—about the evolving landscape of CDI and what led to the changes incorporated in the 2022 update to the seminal AHIMA/ACDIS *Guidelines for Achieving a Compliant Query Practice*.

## Track 4 / **MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

### **Grow Your Own Leaders: How CDI Career Ladders Help Your Staff Flourish**

Aimee Van Balen, RN, BSN, CCDS, and Dawn Diven, BSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP

#### **(GRAND HALL LMN)**

This session brings together two experienced leaders from different organizations to discuss best practices for nurturing and growing your organization's future leaders. They will share their experiences of building career ladders, discuss how to build a business case to justify a career ladder, and cover how to identify the return on investment for your organization.

## Track 5 / **INNOVATION & EXPANSION**

### **Utilization Review and CDI: Collaboration Is the Key to Success**

Teri Rice, RN, MSN, MBA, MHA, CHC

#### **(GRAND HALL GHI)**

Identify best practices in building a collaborative relationship between utilization review and CDI that will help to improve reimbursement outcomes. This session will discuss how barriers to communication can be broken down so that organizations can improve patient status and outcomes.

10:30–11:15 a.m.

### **NETWORKING BREAK (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)**

**COME TO THE ACDIS BOOTH AT 10:45 A.M. FOR A CDI ELEARNING DEMO AND GET A FREE PAIR OF ACDIS SOCKS. (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. ONLY ONE PAIR PER PERSON.)**

11:15 a.m.–  
12:15 p.m.

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

## Track 1 / **CLINICAL & CODING**

### **Finding Hidden Jewels in Priority and Impact Despite COVID-19 Waves**

Gail B. Higle, BS, BSN, RN, CCDS

#### **(GRAND BALLROOM CD)**

During the waves of COVID-19, CDI leadership at Piedmont Healthcare took their CDI game to the next level by implementing technology that prioritized worklists and automated query impact return on investment (ROI). Attendees will learn how priority worklists provided the most impactful cases to improve documentation as well as how impact ROI simplified the reconciliation process, providing CDI teams with meaningful query results.

## Track 2 / **CDI MASTER CLASS**

### **What's in a Review?**

Fran Jurcak, MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O

#### **(GRAND BALLROOM AB)**

Completing a medical record review and finding no opportunity is a tedious task that often results in frustration, leading to lack of job satisfaction. This can be especially discouraging when you've also implemented physician prompts that reduce query opportunities. This session will offer a deep dive into the "new" review process and provide metrics that you can leverage to determine whether your review process is efficient.

## Track 3 / **QUALITY & REGULATORY**

### **Malnutrition: The Next Chapter in Vidant's Seven-Year Battle With the OIG**

Vaughn Matacale, MD, CCDS; Anderson McCray Shackelford, JD; and Ashley Strickland, RDN, LDN, CNSC

#### **(GRAND BALLROOM EF)**

What has happened to Vidant since 2018 when the second-level malnutrition appeals were denied? Come join their physician advisor, attorney, and lead dietitian to learn about the next steps Vidant took in their appeals process as well as their ALJ hearing experience. With the recent Office of Inspector General (OIG) recommendations for a nationwide malnutrition audit accepted by CMS, you do not want to miss this session.

## Track 4 / **MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

### **Engaging Physicians Proactively With AI-Powered CAPD and Improving Documentation Integrity With AI-Powered CDI Tools**

Penny M. Jefferson, MSN, RN, CCDS, CDIS, CCS, CRC, CDIP, CHDA, CRCR, and Tami L. McMasters-Gomez, MHL, BS-HIM, CCDS, CDIP

#### **(GRAND HALL LMN)**

Learn how to improve CDI with AI-powered tools and how to leverage various CDI applications. The speakers will also explain how automation impacts KPIs and how you can use data to provide feedback.

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## Track 5 / INNOVATION & EXPANSION

### Orienting From Afar: Virtual Orientation and Education

Autumn Reiter, MBA, BSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP, CCS, and Laura J. Werner, DC, MSN, RN, BA, BSN, CDIP, CRCR, CCS

**(GRAND HALL GHI)**

In this session, attendees will learn the art of orienting CDI specialists, whether new to the field or seasoned professionals. The speakers will describe how to create engaging education pieces, use technology to generate a positive and interactive environment, and build a strong sense of community that guarantees the foundation needed for the CDI specialist to be successful.

12:15–1:30 p.m.

**NETWORKING LUNCH—PROVIDED (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)**

Interested in joining a networking discussion? From 12:30–1:30 p.m., look for tables devoted to outpatient CDI, pediatric CDI, CDI educators/second-level reviewers, or new and aspiring leaders.

1:30–2:30 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### Track 1 / CLINICAL & CODING

#### Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Procedures

Laura M. Anderson, BSN, RN, CCDS, and Anita Schmidt, BS, RHIA

**(GRAND BALLROOM CD)**

This session will cover common procedures and root operations for hepatobiliary and pancreatic conditions, a brief overview of the body system, and related *Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting* guidance, *Coding Clinic* issues, and chapter-specific notations. Post-procedural complications and conditions will also be discussed.

### Track 2 / CDI MASTER CLASS

#### We Went From a C to an A... and During a Pandemic

Andrea M. Smith, RN, BSN, MSN, CCDS, and Rebecca McDade, BS, RHIA

**(GRAND BALLROOM AB)**

Washington Regional is a stand-alone hospital that has managed to change its Leapfrog score from a C to an A, proving that you do not need to be a part of a corporate group to earn top marks. Attend this session to understand how providing education and feedback as well as performing pre-bill audits can increase public reporting scores.

### Track 3 / QUALITY & REGULATORY

#### What Physicians Need to Know About Complications and Patient Safety Indicators

Timothy Brundage, MD, CCDS, and Cheryl Ericson, MS, RN, CCDS, CDIP

**(GRAND BALLROOM EF)**

This session will explore the coding, CDI, and provider perspectives on complications. It will also examine the relationship between complication codes and Patient Safety Indicators (PSI). Specifically, this session will examine current coding conventions, coding guidelines, and key *Coding Clinic* advice in the context of real case examples as a road map to help CDI and coding professionals better communicate with providers about complications and PSIs.

### Track 4 / MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

#### Centralized Management of CDI: Coming Together and Functioning as One Team

Andrea J. Eastwood, MA, RHIA, and Judy Moreau, MBA, RN, BSN

**(GRAND HALL LMN)**

This session will describe Trinity Health's journey to centralizing the management of its CDI programs. The speakers will provide an overview of the considerations, tasks, and approvals that went into centralizing 42 CDI programs and bringing 180 CDI specialists together as one team.

## Track 5 / INNOVATION & EXPANSION

### Social Determinants of Health: The Next Level of CDI

Rachel Mack, RN, MSN, CCDS, CDIP, CCS, CRC, and Connie Ryan, MBA, RN, CDIP

**(GRAND HALL GHI)**

This session will describe the impact that social determinants of health (SDOH) can have on communities and explain ICD-10-CM guidelines for capture of SDOH. The speakers will also propose strategies for optimizing the capture of SDOH without increasing provider burden and use a case study to highlight the impact of SDOH capture.

2:30–3:15 p.m.

**NETWORKING BREAK (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)**

**COME TO THE ACDIS BOOTH AT 2:45 P.M. FOR AN ACDIS PRO DEMO AND GET A FREE PAIR OF ACDIS SOCKS. (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. ONLY ONE PAIR PER PERSON.)**

Agenda and speakers subject to change. All times listed per event location. Please refer to the event app for the most up-to-date listings for each session.

3:15–4:15 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

<p><b>Track 1 / CLINICAL &amp; CODING</b></p>	<p><b>Track 2 / CDI MASTER CLASS</b></p>
<p><b>Query Compliance: It's a Big Deal</b>                  Angela Brisson, BSN, RN, CCDS, and Amanda Suttles, BSN, RN, CCDS  <b>(GRAND BALLROOM CD)</b>                  This session will discuss the importance of query compliance and an accurate depiction of the patient's clinical picture in the context of denials. Query construction will be addressed using the three-legged stool approach. Query writing will be reviewed in-depth, with examples of compliant and noncompliant queries.</p>	<p><b>Scholarly Activities in CDI: Expanding Your Horizons</b>                  Wendy Arafiles, MD, FAAP, and Amy Sanderson, MD  <b>(GRAND BALLROOM AB)</b>                  Do you want to expand your CDI horizons? If so, join this engaging session about scholarly activities related to CDI. The speakers will discuss various types of research, the differences between research and quality improvement, how to collaborate with others to strengthen your research project, and strategies for overcoming the challenges of research.</p>
<p><b>Track 3 / QUALITY &amp; REGULATORY</b></p>	<p><b>Track 4 / MANAGEMENT &amp; PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b></p>
<p><b>CDI P&amp;Ps Drive Compliance and Build Success</b>                  Gloryanne Bryant, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCDS  <b>(GRAND BALLROOM EF)</b>                  CDI programs need to have written policies and procedures. Per the Office of Inspector General, one key aspect of compliance involves having policies and procedures in place. Understand how a variety of policies and procedures may be necessary to aid the CDI staff and maintain consistency in the query process.</p>	<p><b>Establishing a Retrospective Review Process</b>                  Suma Chacko, MBA, RHIA, CCS, and Amanda Hughes, BSN, RN, CCDS, CIC  <b>(GRAND HALL LMN)</b>                  CDI professionals play an important role in ensuring high-quality clinical documentation through comprehensive concurrent medical record review and appropriate queries. To maximize all opportunities, the CDI program at Baylor Scott &amp; White launched a retrospective review process. During this session, the speakers will discuss the different phases of implementation as well as the challenges they faced and the overall outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Track 5 / INNOVATION &amp; EXPANSION</b></p>	
<p><b>Newborn Respiratory Failure and Further Specifications</b>                  Danielle Flores, RN-CDIS, and Ashley Impriano, BSN, RN, CDIS  <b>(GRAND HALL GHI)</b>                  Do you know how to distinguish between types of newborn respiratory failure and when to exclude respiratory failure of the newborn? During this session, the speakers will explain the clinical aspects of the various types of newborn respiratory failure and review case examples with query opportunities. Other topics will include chronic lung disease, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, reactive airway disease, laryngomalacia, and tracheomalacia.</p>	
<p><b>4:30–5:15 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>GENERAL SESSION /</b>  <b>GET CREDENTIALIAED: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CCDS AND CCDS-O</b>                  Sharme Brodie, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CRC  <b>(GRAND BALLROOM CD)</b>                  Join ACDIS instructor Sharme Brodie to learn how earning your CCDS or CCDS-O credential can help you take the next step in your career. Brodie will explain what the exams cover, how best to prepare, and what it's like to sit for in-person or remote proctored exams.</p>	



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# DAY 3 / WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 (STATE CHAPTER DAY)

Wear your state pride to facilitate networking with other people from your area! During lunch, check out tables dedicated to specific networking groups or your state's local chapter.

7:00–7:45 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)**

8:00–8:30 a.m.

**KEYNOTE SESSION /**

## **THE CHOICE TO FLOURISH**

Laurie L. Prescott, MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP, CRC

**(GRAND BALLROOM)**

When you hear the word *flourish*, you may think of a flower garden, packed with an abundance of color and healthy green life. There's another definition of the word, though. A person can *flourish* when they suddenly perform or develop in an impressively successful way. We all live for those moments when we enter the scene in total control and seize the day. It may be an exchange with a provider, a huge win in a record review, an influential conversation with senior management, or even a presentation at the ACDIS conference. Life is better when we celebrate the moments in which we flourish.

How do we create an environment in which everyone can flourish? We learn, share, and grow. We seek out mentors and offer to mentor others. We seek out new challenges and encourage others to do the same. The ACDIS conference offers a platform to adopt a new attitude, one that inspires you to look for ways to flourish every day.

If we strive to flourish and encourage others to do the same, the CDI profession will continue to grow beyond imagination. In this keynote, ACDIS Interim Director Laurie Prescott will challenge attendees to leave ACDIS 2023 with a plan for how they will perform in an impressively successful way and how they will instill the same drive in others. Flourishing is all about attitude, a willingness to inspire others, and the bravery to step up and put yourself out there.

8:30–9:30 a.m.

**KEYNOTE SESSION /**

## **LEADING WITH AN INCLUSIVE LENS: ACHIEVING ORGANIZATIONAL SYNERGY WITH DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Jermaine M. Davis, EdD

**(GRAND BALLROOM)**

In this engaging and thought-provoking presentation, Dr. Jermaine teaches leaders and frontline employees how to behave, communicate, and think with an inclusive lens to create an environment that's respectful of everyone. Identifying leadership blind spots is a key component to moving forward in this area. It's important to engage in courageous conversations about diversity-related issues. Dr. Jermaine teaches people how to address sensitive issues without feeling awkward, guilty, fearful, or uncomfortable. As a masterful storyteller, Dr. Jermaine will share real-world examples, provide practical tips, and highlight inclusive practices so everyone can excel from the inside out.

9:45–10:45 a.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### Track 1 / **CLINICAL & CODING**

#### **Principal Diagnosis Dilemma**

Vanessa Elliott, BSN, RN, CCDS

**(GRAND BALLROOM CD)**

This session will outline the guidelines for sequencing a principal diagnosis when signs and symptoms are reported. The speaker will also introduce the PDF approach for determining a principal diagnosis and review case studies with opportunities, including DRGs that can further be clarified.

### Track 2 / **CDI MASTER CLASS**

#### **The Role of an Advanced CDI Program in a Clinical Validation Denial Appeals Process**

Joy Bombay, RN, MSN, MHA, CCDS; Joseph Anthony Cristiano, MD, FACP, CCDS, CHCQM-PHYADV; and Tamara A. Hicks, MHA, BSN, RN, CCS, CCDS, CCDS-O

**(GRAND BALLROOM AB)**

Instead of denying certain DRGs, payers have turned to clinical validation denials in which one or more diagnoses are examined for evidence that they existed and were treated during the hospitalization. In this presentation, a multidisciplinary team from Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, including members of its advanced CDI department, will describe the process they have put into place to defend against these DRG downgrades or clinical validation denials.

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<p><b>Track 3 / QUALITY &amp; REGULATORY</b></p> <p><b>Transforming the CDI Audit</b> Imelda Gerard, BSN, RN, CCDS, and Sydni Johnson, BSN, RN, CCDS <b>(GRAND BALLROOM EF)</b> CDI audits are essential in providing feedback to team members on performance and compliance and can also be used as a tool for identifying workflow, quality, efficiency, and educational opportunities. This session will explore Banner Health's historical CDI audit process as well as how it has been evaluated and modernized. The speakers will also describe how Banner Health's CDI audits help identify opportunities and facilitate education to encourage continuous improvement.</p>	<p><b>Track 4 / MANAGEMENT &amp; PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>Watering the Seeds of Growth Through Collaboration</b> Elizabeth M. Aguirre, MD, CCDS, and Jared Brock, MBA <b>(GRAND HALL LMN)</b> In this session, attendees will learn how to leverage collaboration to identify new opportunities, eliminate waste, and achieve growth within the program without additional cost. Attendees will also learn how to anticipate and move past challenges during the collaboration process to achieve their goals. The speakers will explain what growth through collaboration looks like in practice as they share how they've developed their denials project at Baylor Scott &amp; White Health.</p>
<p><b>Track 5 / INNOVATION &amp; EXPANSION</b></p>	
<p><b>Medical Decision-Making in CDI: What's in It for Them?</b> Erica E. Remer, MD, CCDS <b>(GRAND HALL GHI)</b> January 1, 2023, brought a huge change in the way providers need to document to justify their professional bill. Using medical decision-making (MDM) as the only component can align their interests with those of CDI. Take advantage of this opportunity to influence how providers document by understanding what goes into determining the complexity of MDM and how MDM intersects with CDI.</p>	
<p><b>10:45–11:30 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>NETWORKING BREAK (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)</b> <i>Dedicated poster viewing time: Stop by the posters in the exhibit hall and ask the creators your questions.</i> <b>COME TO THE ACDIS BOOTH AT 11:00 A.M. FOR A CDI ELEARNING DEMO AND GET A FREE PAIR OF ACDIS SOCKS. (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. ONLY ONE PAIR PER PERSON.)</b></p> <p><b>11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b></p>	
<p><b>Track 1 / CLINICAL &amp; CODING</b></p> <p><b>Neurology CDI Review Tips: Using Your Brain</b> Cindy Hestir, MSN, RN, CCDS, and Lorilie A. Parker, RRT, MEd <b>(GRAND BALLROOM CD)</b> Do you know the common queries for transient ischemic attacks (TIA) and cerebral infarctions? This session will review the optimal principal diagnosis for patients presenting with symptoms related to TIA and cerebral infarctions as well as common query opportunities to clarify secondary diagnoses and therefore optimize severity of illness, mortality indicators, and/or DRGs.</p>	<p><b>Track 2 / CDI MASTER CLASS</b></p> <p><b>21st Century CDI Work: Retaining Your Staff and Growing Your Personal Brand in the New Gig Economy</b> Brian Murphy and Justin Satterfield <b>(GRAND BALLROOM AB)</b> This session will incorporate survey data and the experiences of seasoned staffing professionals to provide an objective look at the state of staffing in the CDI and coding profession. The speakers will leverage their unique backgrounds and experiences as they explore emerging jobs, career trends, and creative endeavors as well as offer practical advice to get you inspired and your career moving. If you're a CDI manager or director looking to hire and retain your staff, or a CDI or coding professional looking to build your personal brand, make an impact, and advance your career while giving back to the industry, this session is for you.</p>
<p><b>Track 3 / QUALITY &amp; REGULATORY</b></p> <p><b>CDI Mortality Reviews: Going Beyond SOI/ROM</b> Keisha Downes, MBA-HM, RN, CCDS, CCS, and Jill Horruitiner, BSN, RN, CCS, CCDS <b>(GRAND BALLROOM EF)</b> This session will discuss how Tufts Medical Center approaches mortality reviews based on risk variables. They will also differentiate between optimizing DRG/SOI/ROM and optimizing risk variables as well as review potential query opportunities for mortality patients.</p>	<p><b>Track 4 / MANAGEMENT &amp; PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>In a Post-COVID World: Growing a Clinical Documentation Team From the Ground Up</b> Johanne E. Brautigam, BSN, RN, CCDS, and Robin McKenzie, RN, CRCR <b>(GRAND HALL LMN)</b> In the past few years, COVID-19 has changed the healthcare landscape, and CDI has changed with it. CDI specialists proved that they could fulfill their responsibilities remotely, and the option for remote work was undeniably appealing. In this session, hear how one organization built a fully staffed, engaged, and enthusiastic remote CDI team from the ground up.</p>

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## Track 5 / INNOVATION & EXPANSION

### Clinical Validation for Newborns: New Sepsis and Jaundice Guidelines

Lucinda Lo, MD, and Sheilah J. Snyder, MD, FAAP

#### (GRAND HALL GHI)

This session will review new clinical practice updates in pediatrics, including febrile infant and hyperbilirubinemia guidelines. Specifically, attendees will learn how the new febrile infant national guidelines have changed clinical practice in pediatrics as well as how to confidently apply updated hyperbilirubinemia guidelines to the query process and clinical validation reviews.

12:30–1:45 p.m.

**NETWORKING LUNCH—PROVIDED (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)**

1:45–2:45 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

## Track 1 / CLINICAL & CODING

### To Query or Not to Query: A Decision-Tree Approach to Sepsis

Heather J. Luton, BSN, RN, CCDS, and Jillian Mazurek, MSN/Ed, RN, CCDS, CCS

#### (GRAND BALLROOM CD)

CDI departments across the country struggle with identifying and validating sepsis. This is especially difficult when one's organization does not use a standardized definition. In this session, the speakers will discuss the differences between Sepsis-2 and Sepsis-3 criteria and explore one organization's approach to navigating these uncertain waters using a decision tree.

## Track 2 / CDI MASTER CLASS

### Diagnoses That Challenge Providers: A Physician Advisor Perspective

Timothy Brundage, MD, CCDS, and Hassan Rao, MD, CPC, CCS

#### (GRAND BALLROOM AB)

Providers, CDI professionals, and coders each use a different lens when viewing the health record, and it is often difficult for providers to understand why a query was submitted when they feel their documentation is complete. In this session, participants will gain an in-depth understanding of acute respiratory failure, encephalopathy, and myocardial infarction from both the physician perspective and the CDI physician advisor perspective to help CDI and coding professionals better interact with providers.

## Track 3 / QUALITY & REGULATORY

### Our CDI Impact on Quality Metrics

Rhoda Chism, MHL, RN, CCDS, CCS, CPHQ, and Sheila Duhon, eMBA, RN, CCDS, CCS, A-CCRN

#### (GRAND BALLROOM EF)

In this session, hear how the speakers recognized that documentation was skewing quality reporting at their organization. In an effort to remedy this, they created a PSI 90 team, evaluated records, and discovered that many of their organization's reported PSIs and HACs were not accurate. The speakers will also discuss how they reviewed records, brainstormed solutions, and created and implemented a process across their system.

## Track 4 / MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

### Flourishing by Design: Building Organizational Structure and Partnerships for a Flourishing CDI Department

Jessica Risner, BSN, RN, CCDS, and Beth Simms, BSN, RN, CCDS

#### (GRAND HALL LMN)

CDI departments are subject to many forces of change: CMS, internal stakeholders, technology, and staff, to name a few. In this session, attendees will understand the impact of industry changes on CDI. They will also learn how to identify partnerships and other tools for long-term success as well as how they can structure their teams to flourish during change.

## Track 5 / INNOVATION & EXPANSION

### Flourishing in Pediatric CDI

Joy Bombay, RN, MSN, MHA, CCDS, and Sandra H. Love, MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CPC

#### (GRAND HALL GHI)

The pediatric CDI program at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist has enhanced documentation integrity by capturing diagnoses that can improve outcomes for MS-DRGs, APR-DRGs, and denials management. In this session, attendees will learn where to begin in terms of reviewing specific pediatric service lines, achieving buy-in from stakeholders, developing policies and procedures, and providing pediatric education.

2:45–3:30 p.m.

**NETWORKING BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL FINALE (RIVERSIDE CENTER EXHIBIT HALL)**

**COME TO THE ACDIS BOOTH AT 3:00 P.M. FOR AN ACDIS PRO DEMO AND GET A FREE PAIR OF ACDIS SOCKS. (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. ONLY ONE PAIR PER PERSON.)**

Stay with us in the booth until 3:15 p.m. for the raffle card drawing and your chance to win a seat to the 2024 ACDIS National Conference and other prizes!

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3:30–4:30 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

<p><b>Track 1 / CLINICAL &amp; CODING</b></p> <p><b>Coder Meets CDI: Partners in Denial Prevention</b>                  Kimberly M. Huff, BA, COC, CCDS, and Robin Sewell, CDIP, CCDS-O, CCS, CPC, CIC  <b>(GRAND BALLROOM CD)</b>                  The root cause of many coding and clinical validation denials can be traced to a lack of overlapping knowledge between coding and CDI professionals. But what if the two professions could mentor each other? This session will endeavor to go beyond the basic principles of coding and CDI to facilitate a rock-solid clinical partnership between the two that will contribute to maintaining accuracy in the patient’s record, thus reducing and preventing payer denials.</p>	<p><b>Track 2 / CDI MASTER CLASS</b></p> <p><b>Leveraging Data to Improve CDI Outcomes Beyond \$\$\$</b>                  Kearstin Jorgenson, MS, CPC, COC; Laura Ogaard, RN, MSN; and Sathya Vijayakumar, MS, MBA  <b>(GRAND BALLROOM AB)</b>                  Attendees will learn how the CDI team at Intermountain Healthcare has evolved to efficiently evaluate the impact of documentation for multiple objectives. Intermountain CDI partnered with its data analytics team to construct a report that Intermountain’s CDI RNs now use to quickly evaluate documentation for both financial and risk adjustment purposes. The speakers will demonstrate how these efforts impact the quality of care during care team transitions, consultations, or post-acute care.</p>
<p><b>Track 3 / QUALITY &amp; REGULATORY</b></p> <p><b>Shoot for the Stars: How CDI Can Assist in Obtaining a Better CMS Star Rating</b>                  Cheryl Manchenton, RN, BSN  <b>(GRAND BALLROOM EF)</b>                  The healthcare industry’s focus on the CMS Five-Star Quality Rating System for inpatient hospitals continues to increase. Understanding the Five-Star methodology is crucial to a CDI team’s ability to influence the hospital’s quality performance and impact star ratings. This session will provide an overview of what is and isn’t included in these ratings and how CDI can play a vital part in an organization achieving five stars.</p>	<p><b>Track 4 / MANAGEMENT &amp; PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>Evolving Communication in a Changing Work Environment</b>                  Karen Lynn Armetta, RN, CCS, CCDS, and Sydney Neblett, CCS, CCDS  <b>(GRAND HALL LMN)</b>                  This session will review the changes one coding/CDI team implemented when transitioning to a fully remote functional unit. Attendees will learn how to foster a team connection between remote employees, work and collaborate through adversity, and create and develop education opportunities from afar.</p>
<p><b>Track 5 / INNOVATION &amp; EXPANSION</b></p> <p><b>Physician Educator Liaison: A Tool Used to Plant a Seed to Grow Physician Relationships and Enable Engagement to Blossom</b>                  Jonathan “Brad” Gude, PA-C, MCMSc, and Jamie Lynne Johnson, BSN, CCDS  <b>(GRAND HALL GHI)</b>                  This session will show how AdventHealth West Florida Division identified a gap in the relationship between providers and frontline CDI, leading to a need for provider education and communication enhancement. By developing the role of the CDI physician educator liaison, they fulfilled that need. The speakers will share how they recognized and engaged providers at local and divisional levels. The session will include a provider’s perspective of the change in the professional relationship with CDI that led to provider accountability and collaboration.</p>	

**DAY 4 / THURSDAY, MAY 11**

7:00–7:45 a.m.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (RIVERSIDE CENTER)**

8:00–9:00 a.m.

**KEYNOTE SESSION /**  
**FLIGHT 2022–2023: DESTINATION UNCHARTED TERRITORY**  
 Amelia Rose Earhart  
**(GRAND BALLROOM)**  
 There will be successful companies in 2022–2023 and beyond. What’s one thing these teams will need to have in common? A willingness to venture into uncharted territory. In the midst of professional and personal change, teams that take action on bold, resourceful, and never-before-imagined solutions are the ones that will find growth.  
 As a boundary-pushing around-the-world pilot, Amelia Rose Earhart knows exactly what it takes to venture into uncharted territory; now she’s sharing her one-of-a-kind perspective and strategy with the world. With the odds stacked against her, Earhart brought her own bold idea to life in 2014, piloting a small plane 28,000 nautical miles around the globe. To accomplish this, she self-funded her private, instrument, and commercial flight training; went through open-water survival training; crafted a strategic business plan to design, fund, and market her around-the-world attempt; helped to design and build a custom auxiliary fuel tank for the trip; grew a large and passionate social following to spread the word; raised close to \$2 million in partnerships with 28 corporations; founded and ran a charity organization to send numerous teenage girls to flight school; and more. In her keynote, Earhart will share three non-negotiables that she used in her uncharted trip around the globe, all of which are directly transferable to the healthcare world. Earhart’s talk will include actionable takeaways that people can start implementing immediately.

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9:15–10:15 a.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

<p><b>Track 1 / CLINICAL &amp; CODING</b></p> <p><b>Full Alert! A Guide to Improving Trauma Service Documentation</b></p> <p>Trey La Charité, MD, FACP, SFHM, CCS, CCDS</p> <p><b>(GRAND BALLROOM CD)</b></p> <p>While achieving buy-in from trauma service physicians may seem incredibly daunting, it is possible to effect meaningful change. Learn how the CDI program at one academic medical center became routinely involved with their Level I trauma service to obtain and maintain significant documentation improvements. This session will review why you need to intervene with your trauma program, how to effectively engage trauma providers, the most common diagnosis documentation omissions, and the potential results that await your efforts.</p>	<p><b>Track 2 / CDI MASTER CLASS</b></p> <p><b>Building a Resilient CDI Program by Creating a Second-Level Review Team</b></p> <p>Aliette Castor, CCS, CCDS, and Marie G. Mathieu, MS, RN, NE-BC, CDIP, CCDS</p> <p><b>(GRAND BALLROOM AB)</b></p> <p>Hear how Hackensack University Medical Center started a CDI second-level review team that looks at charts post-coding and pre-billing to address revenue and quality, including patient safety indicators and hospital-acquired conditions. This session will provide guidance for organizations looking to have their own CDI teams conduct this review, as opposed to outside vendors.</p>
<p><b>Track 3 / QUALITY &amp; REGULATORY</b></p> <p><b>Evolve Your CDI Program With the Changing Quality Landscape</b></p> <p>Vicki Galyean, BSN, RN, CCDS; Tamara A. Hicks, MHA, BSN, RN, CCS, CCDS, CCDS-O; and Erik Christian Summers, MD, FACP</p> <p><b>(GRAND BALLROOM EF)</b></p> <p>Join this session to learn how Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist's clinical documentation excellence (CDE) team leader manages a multidisciplinary team of coding, CDE, and quality experts, as well as how the chief medical officer collaborates with this team on quality review and audits. The speakers will discuss how they overcome challenges and improve quality scores by working together.</p>	<p><b>Track 4 / MANAGEMENT &amp; PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>Key Conversations: Cracking the Code of a Multigenerational Workplace</b></p> <p>Ella Elizee, MSN, APRN, CCDS, and Gregory S. Simms, RN, CCDS</p> <p><b>(GRAND HALL LMN)</b></p> <p>As the popularity of the CDI profession booms, younger workers are taking up the clinical spyglass and diving into record review and queries, meaning workforces are more age diverse than ever before. How do you best leverage the strengths of veteran and novice CDI professionals? During this presentation, you will gain insight and skills in developing and molding your CDI program to adapt to the increasingly multigenerational workplace. This session will also provide you the information to create an environment where everyone is comfortable to voice concerns and ideas during important conversations while maintaining a shared purpose and vision.</p>
<p><b>Track 5 / INNOVATION &amp; EXPANSION</b></p> <p><b>Engaging New Sites: Community and Critical Access Hospitals</b></p> <p>Jessie Roske, MD, FHM, and Ann Zierden, RN, CCDS</p> <p><b>(GRAND HALL GHI)</b></p> <p>Participants will hear one health system's journey to expand its CDI program to critical access and community hospitals. The speakers will identify the steps taken, unique quality and financial opportunities, and successes and failures necessary to accomplish the integration of all system hospitals into one flagship CDI program.</p>	

10:15–10:35 a.m.

**NETWORKING BREAK (GRAND BALLROOM FOYER)**

10:35–11:35 a.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

<p><b>Track 1 / CLINICAL &amp; CODING</b></p> <p><b>What's in a Drop? Interpreting CBC Results</b></p> <p>Rhoda Chism, MHL, RN, CCDS, CCS, CPHQ, and Sylvia Luna, MSN, RN, CCDS</p> <p><b>(GRAND BALLROOM CD)</b></p> <p>Join this session to understand the components of complete blood count (CBC) lab reports and various disease processes associated with abnormal results. The speakers will also discuss relevant <i>Coding Clinic</i> issues, erythrocyte indexes, types of white blood cells, and different classifications of anemia.</p>	<p><b>Track 2 / CDI MASTER CLASS</b></p> <p><b>Savvy Sequencing Using the Two or More Guideline</b></p> <p>Angela Carmichael, MBA, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCS-P, CRC, and Kelley M. Sears, MSN, RN, CCS, CCM, CCDS</p> <p><b>(GRAND BALLROOM AB)</b></p> <p>You're confident your team is doing all it can to ensure appropriate reimbursement. You perform CDI and coding quality assurance reviews, diligently review mismatches, and use pre-bill DRG optimization applications, but are you certain that your team is uncovering all the revenue optimization opportunities? In this session, the speakers will review sequencing opportunities that are high value but commonly missed.</p>
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Agenda and speakers subject to change. All times listed per event location. Please refer to the event app for the most up-to-date listings for each session.

**Track 3 / QUALITY & REGULATORY**

**From Worst, Our Way to First: Our Quality Improvement Journey**

Jennifer Brettler, DO, CHCQM-PHYADV; Kimberly Seery, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CHDA, CPC, CRC; and Danielle N. Thompson, MSM, BSN, RN-BC

**(GRAND BALLROOM EF)**

In this session, attendees will learn how to leverage a multidisciplinary approach to tackle the most challenging PSIs. Using real-life case examples, the speakers will explore the data elements beyond coding that impact quality metrics and discuss how to improve them. Attendees will walk away with a road map for a successful, data-driven quality improvement plan.

**Track 4 / MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

**Denials Management: A CDI Approach to DRG Validations**

Marilyn Sanchez, BSN, RN, CCDS, and Sharra Way, RN, CCDS

**(GRAND HALL LMN)**

In this session, the speakers will provide strategies for implementing a CDI-based denials management team. Attendees will gain tools for denials management, learn how to identify departments to collaborate with, and articulate the benefits of data collection.

**Track 5 / INNOVATION & EXPANSION**

**Emerging Opportunities for CDI in the SNF**

Kalena Britt, RN, BSN, CCM, CCDS

**(GRAND HALL GHI)**

The change to the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) for skilled nursing facilities (SNF) as of FY 2020 resulted in the increased importance of documentation to support ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, medical necessity, and more. Hear how SNF administrators can turn to CDI programs to ensure that documentation supports patients' conditions, thereby driving accurate reimbursement and quality measures and reducing denials.

11:35 a.m.

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS



**Did you love this year's conference? You can be a speaker in 2024!**

The call for speakers is now open for ACDIS 2024, to be held April 8–11, 2024 in Indianapolis. Apply now!

<https://acdis.org/24speaker>

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**JERMAINE M. DAVIS, EdD**

began his professional career as a snack food sales rep and a district sales manager within corporate America. He honed his expertise in creating culturally inclusive work environments, building high-performance teams, teaching leaders how to communicate courageously, and coaching employees on how to increase their levels of happiness and motivation so they can thrive and succeed in life, school, and work. With his corporate background, entrepreneurial spirit, and accolades as an award-winning professor, Dr. Jermaine is a highly regarded communicator, an excellent leadership coach, a captivating keynote speaker, and a dynamic workshop presenter.



**AMELIA ROSE EARHART**

is a boundary-pushing around-the-world pilot who knows exactly what it takes to venture into uncharted territory with confidence. With the odds stacked against her, Earhart trained not only to become a pilot, but to become the type of pilot to honor the person she was named after, Amelia Mary Earhart, by piloting a single-engine airplane (Pilatus PC-12 NG) 28,000 nautical miles around the globe. Today, Earhart is a full-time speaker, podcast host, and artist who incorporates the lessons of her 2014 global flight into every aspect of her professional and personal life.



**BRIAN MURPHY**

serves as the branding director for Norwood in Austin, Texas. Norwood provides staffing and consulting services for organizations and professionals throughout the mid-revenue cycle. Murphy is the former founder and longtime director of ACDIS, which he served from 2007 to 2022. In his current role, he is responsible for enhancing and elevating careers of mid-revenue cycle professionals through his writings and new podcast, *Off the Record*.



**LAURIE L. PRESCOTT**

MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP, CRC, is the interim director of ACDIS at HCPro in Middleton, Massachusetts. She is an instructor for the CDI Boot Camps, a subject matter expert for ACDIS, a member of the CCDS and CCDS-O exam boards, and a member of the ACDIS Advisory Board. She is also the author of the best-selling *ACDIS Pocket Guide* series and co-author of the *CDI Specialist's Training Guide*, Third Edition.

Note: Speakers subject to change.



**Elizabeth M. Aguirre, MD, CCDS**, is inpatient clinical documentation physician lead at Baylor Scott & White Health in Temple, Texas. She is a board-certified internal medicine physician with 10 years of hospital medicine experience and seven years of CDI experience. She started her CDI journey with concurrent chart reviews and now primarily works with denial reviews and developing CDI physician education.



**Laura M. Anderson, BSN, RN, CCDS**, senior CDI specialist and educator, began her CDI career in 2007 at a Level I trauma facility in St. Paul, Minnesota, after working as a floor RN on step-down, short-stay, postoperative, and telemetry units. She also serves as a co-chair for the Minnesota ACDIS chapter.



**Wendy Arafiles, MD, FAAP**, is the medical director of CDI at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. She has been a practicing pediatric hospitalist at her organization for 15 years, with a specific interest in children with medical complexity and technology dependence. Her medical career has been spent caring for high-acuity, high-complexity pediatric patients.



**Karen Lynn Armetta, RN, CCS, CCDS**, is a clinical validation specialist at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) in Towson, Maryland. Previously, she worked at John Hopkins Hospital (JHH) for 31 years where she gained experience in infant medical/surgical and the open-heart operating room and was an original CDI specialist of the JHH and JHH Bayview campus CDI program. She also worked for the LPG Company where she was a CDI contractor with the DC and Maryland Veteran Affairs Medical Centers. Armetta earned her CCDS certification in 2018 and CCS certification in 2019.



**Joy Bombay, RN, MSN, MHA, CCDS**, is inpatient manager for clinical documentation excellence (CDE) at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She performs a clinical/leadership position that coordinates all activities related to compliance, denials management, mortality reviews, and quality assurance as well as education with the CDE team and providers. Her CDI career started in 2014 after spending 20 years in bedside nursing, providing care in the acute care setting as well as nursing leadership.



**Johanne "Jo" Brautigam, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is the manager of CDI at Ensemble Health Partners/Roper Saint Francis Healthcare in Charleston, South Carolina. She became a CDI manager in 2013 and currently manages 12 CDI specialists, covering four hospitals. She is a former president of the South Carolina ACDIS chapter, a member of the ACDIS CDI Leadership Council and the ACDIS Events Committee, and a past member of the Furthering Education Committee. She is co-author of *The CDI Director's Cut: A Guide for Effective Program Management* and a subject matter expert for ACDIS.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



**Jennifer Brettler, DO, CHCQM-PHYADV**, is medical director of CDI at ChristianaCare in Newark, Delaware. With more than a decade of experience in hospital medicine, she also serves as a physician advisor for the utilization management department. She is the liaison between clinical caregivers and the mid-revenue cycle team.



**Angela Brisson, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is supervisor of CDI and utilization review services at UASI in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has more than 13 years of CDI experience, including CDI educator/leadership roles as well as remote and on-site staffing.



**Kalena Britt, RN, BSN, CCM, CCDS**, is the director of the CDI department at Rochester Regional Health in Rochester, New York, where she oversees the inpatient and skilled nursing facility CDI programs. She has over 30 years of nursing experience, including critical care, utilization review, case management, nurse management, and CDI. Britt has worked in the CDI realm since 2012 in consultant and leadership roles and has a passion for teaching.



**Jared Brock, MBA**, is the system director of CDI analytics at Baylor Scott & White Health in Temple, Texas. He oversees the collection, aggregation, and reporting of all data related to the inpatient and outpatient CDI programs.



**Sharme Brodie, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CRC**, is a CDI education specialist with HCPro, a Simplify Compliance brand, in Middleton, Massachusetts. She serves as a full-time instructor for the CDI Boot Camp as well as a subject matter expert for ACDIS, including as a speaker and journal contributor. She has more than 40 years' experience in the healthcare industry; her CDI background includes consulting where she provided program reviews and training to medical staffs, including physician education at various healthcare facilities. She is the co-author of *The Essential Guide to Supporting Quality Care Measures Through Documentation Improvement*. She serves as co-chair of the ACDIS Regulatory Committee and chair of the CCDS Committee.



**Timothy Brundage, MD, CCDS**, is a physician advisor and CEO of Brundage Group in St. Petersburg, Florida. He is a past ACDIS Advisory Board member and past co-chair of the CDI committee for the American College of Physician Advisors. He frequently presents to physician groups on CDI and denials management, has been a frequent speaker at both national ACDIS conferences and local chapter meetings, and has been a speaker at AHIMA and ACMA annual meetings.



**Gloryanne Bryant, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCDS**, is an HIM coding and CDI compliance consultant in Grass Valley, California. Bryant has over 40 years of experience in HIM coding, CDI, and compliance. She is the past president and director of the California Health Information Association (CHIA), serving on and leading many CHIA, AHIMA, Healthcare Financial Management Association, and ACDIS workgroups and committees. She served on the American Hospital Association's Editorial Advisory Board for *Coding Clinic*® and was a member of the AHIMA Query Practice Brief work group twice.



**Angela Carmichael, MBA, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCS-P, CRC**, is senior vice president of product development at CorroHealth in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. She has over 25 years of experience in the HIM field and has led clinical documentation and coding teams while specializing in CDI, medical coding and education, compliance, and appeals management services.



**Alette Castor, CCS, CCDS**, is supervisor of CDI at Hackensack Meridian Health in Hackensack, New Jersey. She is a foreign medical graduate who has been working in the HIM and CDI management program for over 26 years. She has worked as a second-level review supervisor, CDI/DRG coordinator and lead CDI, quality officer, and coding supervisor at various organizations.



**Suma Chacko, MBA, RHIA, CCS**, is the system inpatient CDI director at Baylor Scott & White Health (BSWH) where she oversees 60 CDI specialists and supports 20 acute care facilities with approximately 3,700 licensed beds. Four years ago, in her current role, she assisted with merging staff to a corporate physician-led department. Chacko has 25 years of healthcare experience, including 13 years leading and directing an HIM department and 12 years overseeing a CDI program. She has also facilitated the implementation of the CDI program at three facilities. Chacko has been actively involved and presented at several ACDIS Leadership Council sessions.

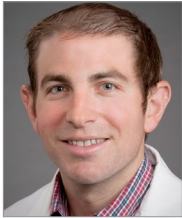


**Rhoda Chism, MHL, RN, CCDS, CCS, CPHQ**, is manager of CDI audit and education at Steward Health Care headquartered in Dallas, Texas. She has more than 20 years of CDI experience and more than 30 years of nursing experience, with an extensive background in critical care, emergency care, case management, and utilization review. A frequent presenter at national and state ACDIS conferences and guest on the *ACDIS Podcast*, she currently serves as a member of the ACDIS Leadership Council.



**Tammy Combs, RN, MSN, CDIP, CCS, CNE**, is director of CDI programs for AHIMA in Ozark, Missouri. She provides professional practice expertise to AHIMA members, the media, and outside organizations on CDI practice issues. She also serves as faculty for the AHIMA CDI Academies and CDIP Exam Preps and is a technical advisor on CDI publications. Due to these responsibilities, Combs authors numerous articles and white papers for the association.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



**Joseph Anthony Cristiano, MD, FACP, CCDS, CHCQM-PHYADV**, is assistant professor of internal medicine/physician advisor at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is a physician advisor for the Atrium Health Wake Forest region of the enterprise health system. He holds certifications from ACDIS (CCDS) and the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians (CHCQM-PHYADV). He created the physician advising program focusing on clinical documentation excellence at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist.



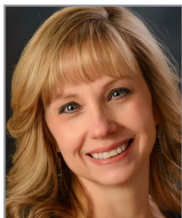
**Dawn Diven, BSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP**, is system enterprise director of inpatient and outpatient CDI at West Virginia University Medicine in Morgantown, West Virginia. She has been an ACDIS Leadership Council member since 2019. She has 17 years of CDI experience, including speaking engagements at the national level, and has been a guest on the *ACDIS Podcast*.



**Keisha Downes, MBA-HM, RN, CCDS, CCS**, is the CDI director for Tufts Medicine hospital system, based in Boston. With an eclectic CDI career, she has held roles as a concurrent CDI reviewer, consultant, educator, manager, and now director. Under her leadership, she helped merge three hospital-based CDI departments into one corporate model and lead the team through a four-system update that included a new EMR. She is a member of ACDIS, HFMA, and AHIMA, and serves on the 2022 ACDIS Leadership Council and 2022/2023 Council Mastermind. She also co-authored the 2022 update of the AHIMA/ACDIS publication *Guidelines for Achieving a Compliant Query Practice*. She has presented at ACDIS conferences on topics surrounding CDI and quality.



**Sheila Duhon, eMBA, RN, CCDS, CCS, A-CCRN**, is the national director of CDI operations and education for Steward Health Care, LLC, headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Duhon has an extensive background in critical care nursing and multiple leadership roles across several states, with more than 16 years' experience in the field. She was the recipient of the ACDIS Achievement Award as the 2022 CDI Professional of the Year. She is a member of the ACDIS Leadership Council and the author of *CDI Workbook: Investigating Complex Cases and Formulating Queries*.

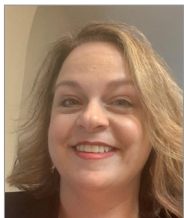


**Andrea J. Eastwood, MA, RHIA**, system director for clinical encounter and documentation excellence at Trinity Health based in Livonia, Michigan, has more than 25 years' experience in both acute and ambulatory care settings. She has worked in various leadership roles, including CDI, HIM, care coordination, case management, and cancer program leadership. In her current role, she is responsible for program leadership and oversight across inpatient CDI.



**Ella Elizee, MSN, APRN, CCDS**, is the CDI educator at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Florida. She brings with her approximately 10 years of experience in the nursing profession. Prior to joining the CDI team, she practiced as an adult oncology/medical-surgical nurse until she obtained her current degree of advanced practice RN (APRN) in family practice. During her time in CDI, Elizee has contributed to the *CDI Journal* and serves on the ACDIS Diversity & Inclusion Committee and Leadership Council.

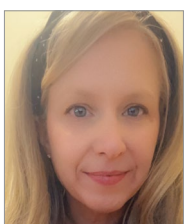




**Vanessa Elliott, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is an enterprise system CDI educator at WVU Medicine based in Morgantown, West Virginia. The team at WVU consists of a director, two managers, two educators, 25 inpatient staff, and two outpatient staff. She has 28 years of nursing experience and 10 years as a CDI professional. Prior to entering the CDI arena, Elliott worked in a variety of settings such as case management, utilization review, and ICU (which included neuro, CICU, and a mixed ICU setting). Elliott serves on the 2022/2023 ACDIS Leadership Council.



**Cheryl Ericson, MS, RN, CCDS, CDIP**, is director of CDI and case management/utilization management at the Brundage Group based in Tampa, Florida. She has extensive experience within the mid-revenue cycle specializing in utilization review and CDI, including a focus on quality initiatives based on provider documentation and coding. She is recognized as a subject matter expert for her body of work through her contributions to white papers and practice briefs with both AHIMA and ACDIS as well as numerous articles and publications.



**Danielle Flores, RN-CDIS**, is a CDI specialist with Tower Health - St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. Her 17 years' experience in patient care includes time in maternal child health, NICU, and general pediatrics, along with a focus in the pediatric ambulatory setting. She also assists with the review and appeal of pediatric denials across the Tower Health system.



**Vicki Galyean, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is a team leader in the clinical documentation excellence department at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Her nursing career of 35 years includes critical care, serving as house supervisor, and 11 years in clinical documentation. She primarily reviews hospital-acquired conditions and Patient Safety Indicators and is chair of the multidisciplinary team that reviews these events.



**Imelda Gerard, BSN, RN, CCDS**, has been a CDI auditor and data specialist at Banner Health in Phoenix since 2021. In 2017, she found her 30 years of clinical, research, case management, and utilization review experience were a good fit with Banner Health's CDI purpose and mission. She has organized a CCDS education workgroup and enjoys serving as a resource for the Banner CDI team.



**Jonathan "Brad" Gude, PA-C, MCMSc**, is chief quality officer at Pioneer Medical Group in Landolakes, Florida. He joined Pioneer Medical Group in 2016, working in both the acute hospital setting and the post-acute program, and transitioned to full-time chief quality officer in 2018, where he redeveloped the quality program. He currently oversees all acute hospital performance and post-acute performance measures, and works with the medical directors to develop and implement improvement strategies.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



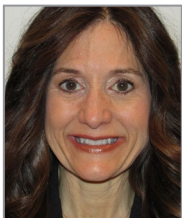
**Rebecca Hendren** is the director of programming for ACDIS at HCPro in Middleton, Massachusetts, where she oversees ACDIS' strategic direction, member benefits, and educational products and services. In her prior role, she managed revenue cycle live events for HCPro, including the annual ACDIS conference, virtual events, seminars, and boot camps. She has also served as associate director for ACDIS and has broad experience as a product director in the CDI, revenue cycle, nursing, patient safety, and accreditation markets.



**Cindy Hestir, MSN, RN, CCDS**, is a CDI specialist at University of Missouri Healthcare in Columbia, Missouri, has more than 30 years of experience, and has been the CDI lead for the neurology and neurosurgery service line for five years. She is a member of the Missouri state conference planning committee, a past member of the ACDIS Events Committee, and a past ACDIS conference speaker.



**Tamara A. Hicks, MHA, BSN, RN, CCS, CCDS, CCDS-O**, is director of clinical documentation excellence at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She has over 39 years of experience, including over 24 years in CDI. A founding member of Wake Forest's CDI team in 1999, she also served as a founding member of the ACDIS Advisory Board and was reelected to the board in 2016. Hicks co-wrote the original CCDS exam, serves on the ACDIS CCDS-O Certification Board, is the social media coordinator of the North Carolina ACDIS board, and was 2019 ACDIS Professional of the Year.



**Gail B. Higle, BS, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is clinical documentation manager at Piedmont Healthcare in Peachtree, Georgia. She has been with Piedmont Healthcare CDI for over 10 years and seen the CDI program grow from two facilities and four CDI specialists to 19 facilities and over 50 CDI specialists. She has been the CDI manager for seven years, specifically as regional team manager and department data analyst. She is a member of ACDIS and the Georgia ACDIS local chapter.



**Jill Horruitiner, BSN, RN, CCS, CCDS**, is a pediatric and adult CDI specialist at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. She has over 28 years of nursing experience with a focus on hospice and palliative care. Beginning in 2012, she embarked on a career in CDI for a community hospital in New Jersey. She took advantage of her love of travel and worked as a travel CDI specialist in the Northeast and Midwest. After several assignments, she fell in love with Boston and became a permanent member of the Tufts family in 2019.



**Kimberly M. Huff, BA, COC, CCDS**, is a consultant for Claro Healthcare, LLC, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Her background includes case management/utilization management. Since entering the field of CDI in 2005, her professional skill set has expanded to include CDI implementation, CDI quality audits, corporate coding and compliance audits, provider education, DRG validation audits as a RAC auditor, as well as clinical validation denials and appeals program implementation.



**Amanda Hughes, BSN, RN, CCDS, CIC**, is the CDI supervisor over the retrospective review process at Baylor Scott & White Health in Temple, Texas. She has 14 years of healthcare experience with eight years in CDI.



**Ashley Impriano, BSN, RN, CDIS**, is a CDI specialist at Tower Health - St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. She offers pediatric clinical support and knowledge to the Tower Health CDI team. She also provides one-on-one pediatric/newborn education to medical providers along with CDI education at nursing grand rounds. Impriano is responsible for clinical documentation review and provider education in the NICU at Tower Health Phoenixville and the entire St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.



**Penny M. Jefferson, MSN, RN, CCDS, CDIS, CCS, CRC, CDIP, CHDA, CRCR**, is a CDI manager at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California. She entered the CDI field in 2012 at a Level I trauma center in Denver, Colorado. In 2019, she joined the CDI team at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix as a concurrent CDI reviewer. In 2020, she transitioned to supervisor of CDI at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She has been with UC Davis Health since 2022.



**Jamie Lynne Johnson, BSN, CCDS**, is a physician educator liaison at AdventHealth West Florida Division in Tampa, Florida. She oversees physician education and engagement at 13 facilities. Her goal is to expand physician perspectives with CDI and enhance professional relationships with providers. She has developed an orientation program for new providers and standardized physician education across the division.



**Sydni Johnson, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is the associate director of CDI quality and education at Banner Health in Tucson, Arizona. She has been in CDI for the past seven years and prior to that worked as a quality analyst. She serves as a co-chair for the Arizona ACDIS local chapter.



**Kearstin Jorgenson, MS, CPC, COC**, is physician advisor strategy director at Intermountain Health in Bountiful, Utah. She supports operations for physician utilization review, CDI, physician education, and physician appeals and denials. She has worked at Intermountain Health for over 20 years and has held leadership roles such as starting a revenue integrity team and operationalizing a new department of 60 caregivers, including nurses, coders, and analysts.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



**Fran Jurcak, MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O**, is the chief clinical strategist at Iodine Software based in Austin, Texas. She has more than 30 years in healthcare practice, education, consulting, and technology, leveraging her clinical and coding knowledge to support process improvement in the mid-revenue cycle, particularly in the CDI space. She has focused on employing innovative AI and machine learning technology to improve workflow efficiency and effectiveness. Jurcak is an accomplished speaker and is active in ACDIS, having served on its Advisory Board and CCDS Certification Committee, authoring its *CCDS Exam Study Guide*, and earning the 2017 Professional Achievement Award.



**Trey La Charité, MD, FACP, SFHM, CCS, CCDS**, is the medical director for CDI and coding at the University of Tennessee Medical Center at Knoxville in Knoxville, Tennessee. A past ACDIS Advisory Board member, La Charité is a regular presenter at the ACDIS pre-conference, *The Physician Advisor's Role in CDI*. He is clinical assistant professor of internal medicine and curriculum director of the residency program's hospitalist rotation. A practicing hospitalist for nearly 20 years, he has oversight spanning case management, utilization review, medical records, compliance, and performance improvement.



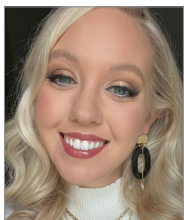
**Lucinda Lo, MD**, is a pediatric attending hospitalist and physician advisor for CDI and case management at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She is a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics. As physician advisor, she provides education and feedback to medical staff on CDI topics. She participates in utilization management and denial reviews as well as formulation of institutional policy and practice. Lo has presented at past ACDIS conferences, assisted on pediatric-focused white papers, and been featured in ACDIS' *CDI Journal*.



**Sandra H. Love, MSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CPC**, is the director of solutions at Norwood based in Austin, Texas. She has over 17 years of nursing experience and 10 years in CDI, previously serving as manager of outpatient clinical documentation excellence at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she helped to implement an outpatient CDI program and developed two pediatric CDI programs. A past president of the North Carolina ACDIS local chapter, she has spoken at a 2021 Georgia ACDIS chapter meeting and past national ACDIS conferences. Love is also a past member of the ACDIS Events Committee and ACDIS Leadership Council.



**Sylvia Luna, MSN, RN, CCDS**, is corporate CDI manager at Steward Health Care based in Dallas, Texas. She has 27 years of nursing and management experience with 12 years in CDI. She has a background in nursing education and is passionate about CDI education and team development. Luna is a current member of the ACDIS Leadership Council, past ACDIS poster presenter, and past member of the Texas ACDIS local chapter.



**Heather J. Luton, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is CDI supervisor at Prisma Health in Columbia, South Carolina. She has a background in emergency medicine and critical care and started her career in CDI in 2018. As a supervisor, she focuses on education within the CDI department. She gives numerous presentations to the CDI team, coding team, and different physician service lines. She leads and assists with systemwide CDI projects including clinical validation, risk adjustment variables, reconciliation/validation, Patient Safety Indicators, mortalities, and quality monitoring. She is a member of ACDIS, the South Carolina ACDIS local chapter, and the Healthcare Financial Management Association.



**Rachel Mack, RN, MSN, CCDS, CDIP, CCS, CRC**, is consulting director of CDI at Vizient Inc. and lives in Littleton, Colorado. She brings over 10 years of experience in CDI, with more than 15 years in healthcare as a registered nurse. She has built CDI teams from the ground up and helped lead large, medium, and small hospitals in CDI innovation. Prior to joining Vizient, she spent six years as a CDI specialist, educator, and auditor at SCL Health in Colorado. She was also a clinical program manager at Iodine Software for two years. Mack has presented at various ACDIS and AHIMA conferences and webinars and was also the Colorado ACDIS local chapter leader for three years.



**Cheryl Manchenton, RN, BSN**, is a project manager/quality services lead at 3M Health Information Systems based in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has more than 35 years' experience, including policy and procedure development, ethics oversight, staff training, performance improvement, and quality initiatives, with a wide clinical background that includes more than 15 years in cardiovascular surgical care. Manchenton is a coauthor and co-editor of the DRG Assurance Program and contributor to *For the Record* and *Inpatient Insights*, and has been a featured speaker for ACDIS, AHIMA, and the Healthcare Financial Management Association.



**Vaughn Matacale, MD, CCDS**, director of the physician advisor group at ECU Health in Greenville, North Carolina, specializes in hospital medicine and began in the physician advisor role in 2007. His advisor team has grown to eight full-time physicians and a physician assistant who conduct post-discharge pre-bill reviews and provide support and education for coding, CDI, and medical staff, plus full utilization review (UR) support. He has over 18 years' experience in UR work and continues to practice medicine. He chairs the Patient Safety Indicator committee and sits on the hospital patient safety and quality improvement committee, as well as the ACDIS Advisory Board.



**Marie G. Mathieu, MS, RN, NE-BC, CDIP, CCDS**, is the vice president of CDI at Hackensack Meridian Health Network based in Hackensack, New Jersey. She directs the regional managers working with the CDMP team of clinicians, coding professionals, physicians, and registered nurse practitioners to ensure accurate and timely clinical documentation. She plans and supports ongoing communication and education to staff and physicians, creates and disseminates reports and action plans, and is accountable for the CDMP success as reflected in case-mix index. Due to this success, senior leadership appointed her to handle the department across the network and now adopts the same practice.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



**Jillian Mazurek, MSN/Ed, RN, CCDS, CCS**, is a CDI coordinator at Prisma Health in Greenville, South Carolina. She has more than 17 years of nursing experience in acute care with a background in cardiology and heart and lung transplant care. She has been working in CDI since 2017. In her current role, she serves as orientation lead, query compliance reviewer/query committee head, staff educator, and second-level reviewer. She has written a departmental policy for a systematic approach to query reviews and developed a central communication tool and repository for reference materials in a rapidly expanding remote CDI department. Mazurek is the current social media director for the South Carolina ACDIS local chapter.



**Rebecca McDade, BS, RHIA**, is the director of revenue integrity at Washington Regional Medical Center (WRMC). She started at WRMC as the inpatient coding manager before being promoted to director. In her role as director, she oversees the mid-revenue cycle functions, as well as providing education to physicians, NPPs, and clinical staff regarding proper documentation. She works closely with the quality department to review outcomes data and ensure proper documentation and coding for reporting. McDade has 13 years of experience in inpatient coding and eight years in coding and CDI leadership.



**Robin McKenzie, RN, CRCR**, is a CDI specialist at Ensemble Health Partners in Johns Island, South Carolina. A registered nurse with 22 years of experience, McKenzie has worked in the operating room, acute rehab, home health, case management, and quality. McKenzie recently trained 11 brand-new CDI specialists and enjoys the daily challenges and learning opportunities of the CDI world.



**Tami L. McMasters-Gomez, MHL, BS-HIM, CCDS, CDIP**, is the director of coding and CDI services at the University of California Medical Center at Davis based in Sacramento, California. She has more than 30 years of experience in HIM, starting her career as a file clerk in the medical records department of a small rural hospital. McMasters-Gomez has worked in a variety of roles, including coder, auditor, supervisor, manager, and director. She is a member of the 2022/2023 ACDIS Leadership Council and the inaugural ACDIS Outpatient Leadership Council Mastermind. She is also an AHIMA-certified ICD-10-CM/PCS trainer.



**Tiara Minor, RN, BSN, CCDS**, is the director of CDI at the University of Miami Health System in Miami. She has 10 years' experience in CDI, with the last seven in CDI/coding leadership. She has worked with various types of hospital systems including large academic medical centers, multihospital systems, smaller community hospitals, a children's hospital, and outpatient clinics. Spending 2.5 years in consulting broadened her experience with exposure to different facilities, leadership operations, vendor relations, and technology solutions. Previously, she worked in the emergency department as an EMT and registered nurse. Minor is passionate about CDI and is an advocate for diversity. She and her team received the 2022 ACDIS Achievement Award for Diversity in CDI.



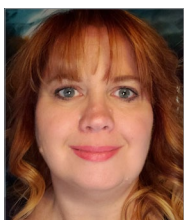
**Chinedum Mogbo, MBBS, MBA, MSHIM, RHIA, CDIP, CCDS, CCS**, is a CDI manager at Tenet Healthcare. Mogbo has successfully managed various teams, including CDI specialists and coding auditors. She has been involved in developing in-house curricula for CDI specialist training and served as co-chair of the AHIMA CDI practice council, including the ACDIS/AHIMA *Guidelines for Achieving a Compliant Query Practice*. She has also co-authored multiple AHIMA practice briefs. Mogbo was the 2019 ACDIS CDI Week survey advisor and has had articles featured in ACDIS' *CDI Journal*. Mogbo serves on the ACDIS Advisory Board, is the co-chair of the ACDIS Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and is a 2022/2023 member of the ACDIS Leadership Council.



**Judy Moreau, MBA, RN, BSN**, is the vice president of mid-revenue cycle for Trinity Health headquartered in Livonia, Michigan. She is responsible for providing leadership for the organization in HIM, clinical documentation, and coding. Prior to joining Trinity Health, Moreau worked as a consultant for Deloitte and Touche performing revenue cycle, coding, compliance, and clinical trial engagements. She has also managed both private and academic physician practices. Moreau has published multiple articles on revenue cycle issues and presented at multiple national conferences on CDI.



**Sydney Neblett, CCS, CCDS**, is a clinical validation informatics specialist at Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Baltimore. She started her working career as a mechanic in the U.S. Army, after which she attended Hagerstown Business College and received her associate's degree in HIM. She worked for several years in the health information department at Chambersburg Hospital before joining Greater Baltimore Medical Center, where she has worked for 18 years beginning as an inpatient coder.



**Laura Ogaard, RN, MSN**, is the CDI IPC manager at Intermountain Health in Murray, Utah. She leads innovation and process improvement for the CDI team as well as managing the second-level review team that focuses on optimizing expected mortality in high-risk groups and performing mortality and clinical validation reviews. She has worked in the healthcare field for over 28 years and entered the nursing field in the areas of neurology, neurosurgery, and thoracic ICU before transitioning to CDI work.



**Lorilie A. Parker, RRT, MEd**, is a CDI specialist at the University of Missouri Healthcare in Columbia, Missouri. She has 30 years of experience in healthcare, including two years of CDI experience performing chart reviews for quality and financial integrity as well as provider education. She also has 16 years' experience as an associate professor teaching respiratory care at the University of Missouri School of Health Professions and 30 years' experience as an ICU and general care Registered Respiratory Therapist.



**Leigh Poland, RHIA, CCS, CDIP**, is vice president of the coding service line at AGS Health based in Washington, D.C. She has more than 25 years of coding, auditing, and CDI experience and has worked extensively in coding and education for the last 15 years. Poland has presented at the AHIMA National Convention, ACDIS conference, and AAPC Convention on multiple occasions and has written articles for the *Journal of AHIMA*. Poland has traveled the U.S. and internationally providing coding education.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



**Hassan Rao, MD, CPC, CCS**, is a physician advisor at the Brundage Group based in Tampa, Florida, where he focuses on quality reviews including Patient Safety Indicators, hospital-acquired conditions, mortality metrics, DRG optimization, and provider education. He is a practicing hospitalist at Denver Health and an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Colorado-Denver School of Medicine. Previously, Rao served as the physician advisor at Denver Health supporting inpatient and outpatient CDI, professional billing optimization, provider education, provider and executive metrics, denials management, and revenue integrity.



**Autumn Reiter, MBA, BSN, RN, CCDS, CCDS-O, CDIP, CCS**, is vice president of CDI and tech enablement at CorroHealth in Omro, Wisconsin, where she serves clients' staffing and auditing needs for both the inpatient and outpatient settings, as well as providing education to physicians, nurses, and coders. After beginning her nursing career in the ICU, she served as a CDI specialist and clinical coordinator before joining CorroHealth (TrustHCS) in 2015. Reiter has authored articles for AHIMA and spoken at state conventions. She is an ACDIS Advisory Board member and contributed to the 2021 and 2022 *ACDIS Outpatient Pocket Guide*.



**Erica E. Remer, MD, CCDS**, is the president of Erica Remer, MD, Inc., based in Beachwood, Ohio. A practicing emergency physician for 25 years, Remer is a nationally known expert in coding, clinical documentation, CDI, and E/M. She has written numerous articles, serves as the co-host of the weekly podcast *Talk Ten Tuesdays*, and has been a frequent guest on the *ACDIS Podcast*. She is the chair of the American College of Physician Advisors' (ACPA) CDI Committee and on their Board of Directors. She is also on the National ACEP Coding and Nomenclature Advisory Committee and a past member of the ACDIS Advisory Board. She designed "Dr. Remer's Documentation Modules With CME" for remote learning by providers. Her passion is educating CDI specialists, coders, physician advisors, and healthcare providers with engaging, case-based presentations and the goal of putting MENTATION back into documentation.



**Teri Rice, RN, MSN, MBA, MHA, CHC**, is a regulatory instructor for HCPro, which is based in Brentwood, Tennessee. She is the lead instructor for HCPro's Medicare Boot Camp®—Critical Access Hospital Version and Rural Health Clinic Version and an instructor for the Medicare Boot Camp®—Utilization Review Version. She serves as a regulatory specialist for HCPro's PROPEL Medicare advisory services, providing regulatory guidance on coverage, billing, and reimbursement, and is a subject matter expert for the National Association of Healthcare Revenue Integrity (NAHRI). She has extensive knowledge of Medicare billing and compliance issues in addition to CDI, appeals, denials, and audits.



**Jessica Risner, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is the senior director of CDI and clinical denials at Banner Health based in Phoenix. With oversight of 29 hospitals in six states, she leads a dedicated team of 135 professionals in the pursuit of concise documentation that appropriately reflects patient acuity, risk of mortality, and resource utilization. She is an active member of the ACDIS Leadership Council and has been published in both *CDI Leadership Insider* and the *CDI Journal*, as well as appearing on the *ACDIS Podcast*, conferences, and webinars.

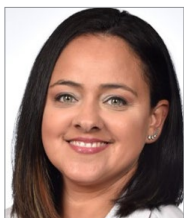




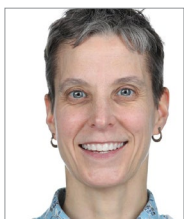
**Jessie Roske, MD, FHM**, is physician section director improvement/medical director CDI, internal medicine hospitalist at CentraCare Health in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Her CDI work began as self-learning efforts, gradually growing to medical director by 2019. Specific projects include expansion of enterprisewide CDI support, development of mortality and quality reviews, multidisciplinary cosign for diagnosis capture, facility clinical indicators to standardize education and combat denials, and physician leadership in evaluation and management.



**Connie Ryan, MBA, RN, CDIP**, is consulting director for Vizient in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She brings over 20 years of healthcare experience, with 10 years in CDI spanning Level I and II trauma centers, leading academic medical centers, and *U.S. News & World Report* top 20 health systems. Her areas of focus include risk adjustment for claims-based quality measures, all versions of the HCC risk adjustment framework, and social determinants of health in addition to MS-DRG accuracy. Prior to joining Vizient, Ryan was a senior consultant for an established consulting firm, and prior to entering CDI, she served in nursing management and healthcare administration.



**Marilyn Sanchez, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is a CDI specialist at Orlando Health in Clermont, Florida, and works in the denials management team. She has 15 years' clinical experience in cardiopulmonary care, interventional cardiology, and leadership. Her CDI career began in 2019 in the concurrent space. Since 2021, she had been working on the payer defense team within her CDI department. She currently reviews DRG validation denials and writes evidence-based, patient-specific appeal letters.



**Amy Sanderson, MD**, is a pediatric intensivist at Boston Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. She has been the physician advisor for the CDI program since its inception in 2014. She also serves as an assistant professor in anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School. Sanderson has presented at several national conferences, published scholarly articles on medical documentation, and contributed to the book *Pediatric CDI: Building Blocks for Success*. In addition, she is a founding member of the Pediatric Documentation Research Collaborative, a research group that focuses on documentation-related issues in pediatric hospitals.



**Justin Satterfield** is the founder and CEO of Norwood, based in Austin, Texas, where he is dedicated to serving the CDI community through staffing, consulting, education, and advocacy. He fosters a culture that is conducive to hiring top-tier talent. He has presented at multiple ACDIS and AHIMA events and has been a guest on the *ACDIS Podcast*. He currently serves on the Texas ACDIS local chapter leadership team, the TxHIMA communications team, and the HIM advisory board at Texas Southern University.



**Anita Schmidt, BS, RHIA**, is senior capability manager for Optum in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has expertise in ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS, DRG, and CPT® with more than 15 years' experience in coding in multiple settings, including inpatient, observation, and same-day surgery. She has conducted training for ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS and the electronic health record. She has also collaborated with CDI specialists to identify documentation needs and potential areas for physician education.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



**Kelley M. Sears, MSN, RN, CCS, CCM, CCDS**, is director of DRG integrity at Versalus Healthcare in North Dighton, Massachusetts. She oversees production of DRG auditing, clinical validation, and appeals. She is a clinical subject matter expert with over 30 years' nursing experience and over 15 years' CDI education, training, and auditing experience.



**Kimberly Seery, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CHDA, CPC, CRC**, is the associate director of coding and data quality for ChristianaCare Health System in Delaware and Maryland. She has almost 20 years of coding and data quality experience in large academic health systems. She currently sits on the AHIMA Revenue Cycle Practice Council and has served on the CDI Practice Council. She is very active in her local AHIMA chapter and has served as president and president-elect.



**Robin Sewell, CDIP, CCDS-O, CCS, CPC, CIC**, is an independent consultant at HIM Analytic Solutions LLC in Hobe Sound, Florida. Her background spans 25 years across the healthcare continuum, including RAC audits, clinical validation, and DRG audits. Known as the "Queen of Denial," Sewell used her knowledge of payer tactics to develop the software application "Cleopatra Queen of Denial" on behalf of providers to prevent, manage, appeal, and overturn payer denials. Currently, her scope of practice is identifying CDI and coding opportunities through data analytics.



**Anderson McCray Shackelford, JD**, is an associate at K&L Gates LLP in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He represents a myriad of healthcare entities in healthcare litigation and regulatory issues/appeals. Shackelford practices before various state and federal courts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Medicare Office of Hearings and Appeals, the Departmental Appeals Board, and elsewhere. He has also arbitrated before the American Health Lawyers Association's Dispute Resolution Service and the American Arbitration Association.



**Beth Simms, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is the CDI and acute care coding program manager at Banner Health in Mesa, Arizona. She supports the CDI and acute coding department with data analytics, basic IT support, coordination of projects with the internal IT team and vendor support, development of workflows, and staff education related to workflows and IT solutions.



**Gregory S. Simms, RN, CCDS**, is CDI manager at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Florida. He began his nursing career in critical care and joined CDI in 2015. As manager, he grew his team from 26 to 40 CDI specialists and enhanced the department's education initiatives with the creation of a CDI educator position. He partnered with IT to populate working DRG data in real time and to improve length of stay initiatives by leveraging AI to identify discharge barriers. Simms is working toward his MSN in nursing leadership and management and is a member of the ACDIS Leadership Council and his ACDIS local chapter.



**Andrea M. Smith, RN, BSN, MSN, CCDS**, is an inpatient and outpatient CDI manager at Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She has been in the CDI profession since 2014 and been a nurse since 2001. Her prior experience includes ICU, dialysis, med/surg, and cardiology.



**Sheilah J. Snyder, MD, FAAP**, is a pediatric hospitalist for Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Snyder serves as a physician advisor for the Epic inpatient team and CDI program, which allows her to leverage the electronic health record to produce excellent CDI outcomes. Snyder has presented at the ACDIS conference and contributed to the book *Pediatric CDI: Building Blocks for Success*.



**Ashley Strickland, RDN, LDN, CNSC**, is the adult clinical dietitian supervisor and surgical/trauma intensive care dietitian at ECU Health Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina. Her career's primary focus has been critical care, complex GI patients, and nutrition support. She also serves as the subject matter expert on malnutrition at her hospital. She is an independent contractor for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, serving as a trainer providing education nationwide. Strickland also sits on the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition's Reimbursement Malnutrition Task Force, providing guidance on malnutrition denial cases at a national level.



**Erik Christian Summers, MD, FACP**, is chief medical officer (CMO) at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He joined Wake Forest Baptist Health in 2010 as a hospitalist and was named the first chief in the section on hospital medicine in 2012. He was appointed associate CMO in 2014, named vice chair for quality and safety in 2015, and promoted to CMO in 2018. His responsibilities include leadership over the medical staff, advanced practice providers, care coordination, and the CDE team.



**Amanda Suttles, BSN, RN, CCDS**, is supervisor of CDI and utilization review services at United Audit Systems Inc. (UASI) in Cincinnati. She has more than 14 years of CDI experience, including CDI educator and leadership roles as well as remote and on-site staffing. She is a member of ACDIS both nationally and in her local state, where she served as the secretary for two years. She has presented at the South Carolina ACDIS local chapter, at the 2020 ACDIS conference, and at multiple healthcare institutions in addition to creating and presenting internal education to UASI staff.



**Danielle N. Thompson, MSM, BSN, RN-BC**, is a CDI quality and safety specialist at ChristianaCare in Newark, Delaware. She has been a nurse for over 20 years and has enjoyed serving the neurological, vascular, orthopedic, trauma, and post-re-renal/pancreatic surgery specialties at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Maryland Medical Center, and ChristianaCare. She started her caregiver journey at ChristianaCare in 2002 and joined the CDI department in 2016.

# SESSION SPEAKERS



**Aimee Van Balen, RN, BSN, CCDS**, is a CDI specialist at Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital (Mass General Brigham) in Massachusetts. She has clinical experience in medical, surgical, and cardiac care. Van Balen has 14 years of experience in CDI and serves as a mentor for her peers within her department and the Massachusetts ACDIS local chapter. She reviews concurrent and retrospective charts and provides ongoing physician education. Van Balen is an active member of the Chapter Advisory Committee. She was selected for the ACDIS Advisory Board in 2020 and was published with her colleague in the *Journal of Interprofessional Workforce Research and Development*.



**Sathya Vijayakumar, MS, MBA**, is senior clinical operations manager with the Office of Patient Experience at Intermountain Health in Salt Lake City, Utah. An engineer by background, she has almost 20 years of healthcare experience in various roles. She spearheads multidisciplinary, data-driven projects at the Office of Patient Experience and is an avid researcher and publisher/presenter. In her spare time, she mentors and judges student entrepreneurs and competitions at the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, reviews manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals, and chairs the education committee on the board of the Utah Association for Healthcare Quality.



**Sharra Way, RN, CCDS**, is a CDI specialist at Orlando Health in Orlando, Florida. She has over 20 years' experience in emergency medicine, critical care, interventional radiology, and rapid response nursing. She works with the denials management team at Orlando Health, where she began her position in CDI performing concurrent reviews in 2019. In 2021, she transitioned to denials management, reviewing DRG audits and defending them based on evidence-based research and practice guidelines.



**Laura J. Werner, DC, MSN, RN, BA, BSN, CDIP, CRCR, CCS**, is system director of CDI for Adventist Health in Roseville, California, overseeing California, Oregon, and Hawaii. That oversight includes 16 acute care hospitals, five critical access hospitals, and more than 300 clinics for inpatient and outpatient programs. She has over 30 years of clinical experience, including a dozen in CDI where she has assisted in the design and implementation of acute care and critical access CDI departments, working both on-site and remote.



**Ann Zierden, RN, CCDS**, is director of inpatient CDI at CentraCare Health in St. Cloud, Minnesota. She is a member of the ACDIS Leadership Council and a past member of the ACDIS Leadership Council Mastermind. Her roles at CentraCare Health have included utilization review, quality resources, infection prevention and control, and CDI. She was integral in the expansion of the CDI department and creating an integrated CDI program from one flagship hospital to six critical access hospitals and one community hospital. She currently leads a team of 14 CDI RNs.

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