
Maryland ACDIS Chapter Journal

March/April 2020

President's message

Nearly six months into the year and what a roller coaster it has been! We have come to a unique period of the calendar year that starts a new fiscal year, and it also marks the time of a new season. While June presents its own unique challenges, and this year is no exception, be sure to take time for yourself. Work life balance sounds so cliché, yet it is so necessary to the very fibers of your soul. Life gets so hectic, schedule just a few minutes of quiet time to start with if that is all you can afford. As you get comfortable with that, it will blossom into something meaningful for you.

As we move deeper into this year, the faster it will glide by. Many of us have a lot of ground to make up at work and have been planning strategies on how to move forward from the pandemic with a viable vision. Our group is no different. The purchase of the Webex is going to prove valuable this year. Planning the conference has taken on a completely different appearance but one that we are working with. It is amazing how when given the luxury of comfort, close mindedness can settle in and advancements can be stifled. Yet here we are, our school systems are on-line, many departments are now working from home and on-line meeting platforms are an everyday part of life. We have all grown, stepped up to the challenge and found our flexibilities. It is impressive how some parts of our lives have advanced decades in a few short months. Time will tell if this movement is positive or negative, and I suppose like most things in life it will come down to perspective.

I am choosing a positive approach. I am excited for a new conference adventure and the options that holds for outreach and networking within our state. I am also excited that we can continue to meet, share our knowledge, network and resource one another. I am also excited for the day when we can meet in person again. I ask that you continue to be patience as we work towards making decisions that are best during any given time. As



Upcoming Events

2020 Maryland ACDIS Meetings:

June 19
August 21
October 16
December 4

2020 Maryland ACDIS
MdAHIMA HSCRC Event:
Monday, June 29

2020 Maryland ACDIS
Conference: Friday,
September 18th

Maryland ACDIS Leadership:

Deb McClain, President
dmclain2@fmh.org

Vacant, Vice President

Melanie Green,
Interim Secretary
lanie.green06@gmail.com

Teri Gruenberg,
Membership Liaison
Tgruenb1@jhmi.edu

Christi Sarsarasin,
Education Coordinator
cdsarasin@gmail.com

everyone well knows, every day is a new day and each new day has it's own unique personality.

Please take care and stay well,

Deb

June Membership Meeting

The MHA has informed us that they are closed for meetings for an indefinite period of time. Our June meeting will be held via Webex. Meeting information will be coming a few days prior to the meeting. We will determine the format of future meetings closer to each meeting month. We are just as anxious as you are to see everyone again and meet in person, please continue to stay patient and network via other means until we can meet again.

June Membership Meeting CEU Offering

A unique CEU opportunity has presented itself and hope that you will take advantage of it. The Kentucky ACDIS Local Chapter is conducting a CEU on Friday, June 26th at 1pm.

Please register for KY ACDIS Chapter: Physician Engagement on Jun 26, 2020 1:00 PM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5921115713416955406>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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Recap From April Membership Meeting

COVID 19- Response: The CDI program was vastly affected by the pandemic. The pandemic has resulted in a drop of the hospital census resulting in CDI staff getting furloughed or asked to go back to bedside nursing to address the need for staffing. Hospitals have converted many of the med-surg units to dedicated COVID-19 units. A new set of coding guidelines were released on April 1, 2020 to address accurate coding of patients who tested positive for COVID 19.

The question was raised about the coding logirhythm for hyperlactatemia which default to an acidosis code. Here is an article that was suggested by Rose Lim on acidosis from November 2019: [Lactic Acidosis](#).

A large amount of discussion took place regarding several resources for COVID-19 and other general CMS offerings. Below are several links that were mentioned:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/FY2020-IPPS-Final-Rule-Home-Page>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/acute-inpatient-pps/fy-2021-ipps-proposed-rule-home-page>

<https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/disaster-response-toolkit/federal-disaster-resources/98246>

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-physicians-and-practitioners.pdf>

CMS website offers email updates for different topics. Go to: <https://www.cms.gov/> And enter your mail at the bottom where it says "Receive Updates" and then you can choose which programs you would like to receive updates on and there is an option for how often you receive them as well.

CMS is offering regular calls regarding COVID 19. The most recent was June 2. For information regarding the calls, how to register and other helpful information, please visit:

<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit>

CMS Blanket waiver: Physicians and Other Clinicians: CMS Flexibilities to fight COVID-19:

CMS released several rulings on 5/6/2020 that are changing previous practice in regards to the COVID-19 response. While some of the decision may not impact acute care hospitals directly, they may influence the CDI scope of practice or opportunity for practice in other areas such as reviewing telehealth records, outpatient ED, denials and appeals.

From ACIDS, "[CMS announced](#) that it will no longer require written physician orders to allow Medicare beneficiaries to be tested for COVID-19. Ordinarily, a patient required an order from a physician of other practitioner overseeing their care. CMS eased these requirements to make for easier to administer drive-thru and parking lot testing facilities.

Under the new testing requirements, pharmacists can now work with physicians to assess patients and perform tests if they are enrolled in Medicare as a laboratory. If not, pharmacists are still able to collect specimens for testing.

Additionally, CMS said it will now cover certain antibody tests and processing for home tests that have been approved by the FDA.

The testing updates were included among other regulatory changes. CMS also increased the number of services covered in audio-only telephone visits to include behavioral health and patient education services.

CMS noted it will also retroactively (to March 1) increase the payment rate for telephone visits to match those for similar office care. This came after, though not directly linked to, much [criticism from providers](#) not receiving full reimbursement for telehealth visits as previously told.

From a CDI perspective, this retroactive payment increase may be an avenue into expanded chart reviews and an additional way for CDI professionals to help their organizations. As many healthcare organizations have faced furloughs due to the decreased censuses and cancelled elective, non-

emergent procedures and visits, [reviewing telehealth records](#) may be a way to [keep CDI professionals in the "essential worker" category](#) and shore up the organizations' bottom lines."

For the ACDIS article, visit <https://acdis.org/articles/news-cms-loosens-requirements-covid-19-tests-increases-payments-telehealth>

2020 Maryland ACDIS Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, September 18, 2020

The uncertainty of the pandemic and how long this state of recovery will last and the potential for a second wave has left us with an uncertain conference plan. After much thought, we have decided to move our September conference to a virtual platform.

We are working out the logistics, the platform and agenda. So please stay tuned as we continue to determine the fine details. We will keep you posted and have an update at the June meeting.

2020 Maryland ACDIS & MdAHIMA Collaborative Education

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, June 29, 2020

LOCATION: Virtual Event

This event will be offered virtually. Registration will be coming next week, please watch your emails closely. The first part of the program will be presented by various members of the HSCRC following by a revenue program design discussion by Carolyn Znaniec.

Getting to know you - Member Profile

Our current Meet a Member participant is Melanie Green. Not only did Melanie volunteer to step into our Secretarial role, but she was a good sport and agreed to be featured this month. Thank you Melanie!

What did you do before CDI/Coding?

I am an ER nurse by trade for many, many years. I started working as a nurse back home in the Philippines. Then I went to Saudi Arabia for 5 years and worked in an American company called ARAMCO. My goal is to have nursing experience with US standards in preparation to pursue my dream to work here in the US. As a matter of fact, I was in Saudi when 911 happened. That will tell you how long I have been working as an RN. The rest are history. Not only did I fulfill my dream by coming here but I met my husband as well.

**What attracted you to CDI/Coding?**

When the facility I worked at switched to EPIC medical record system, my instructors are actually nurses. That inspired me to switch career and still able to use my clinical knowledge. I went back to school and got my master's degree and my capstone paper is about CDI. That is where it all started. Beforehand, I have no idea such job existed.

What I loved most about CDI is the ability to use my critical thinking skills and knowledge and work office hours, no weekend, no holidays. Having remote capability is an extra bonus.

What is your title or current role?

My current role is CDIS., staff position. My title includes RN, BSN, RHIA, CCS, CEN, CPEN

What do you like most about your role?

I always love to learn new things and information. With CDI, I am able use all my knowledge and experience and still grow and thrive in this profession especially when I am making an impact on the physician's documentation.

What is or are your biggest challenges in your role?

Keeping up with the constant changes in coding and CDI processes.

How many years have you been in CDI/Coding?

Almost two years.

What advice would you offer to a new CDI/Coder?

Give yourself time to learn and adjust to the new position. Everyone has a learning curve to conquer. Creating physician query is an art. It takes time to be good at it. Ensure that you have a healthy working relationship with the physicians and co-workers. Don't hesitate to ask or seek help.

Tell us about how you spend your time away from CDI/Coding?

I love gardening in general and trying new food or restaurant.

What is your dream vacation destination?

My dream vacation is to go to Japan and Greece. I love the history, culture and all the beautiful sceneries.

Membership Survey

Thank you to the 32 members who took time to answer the survey! Your feedback is very valuable to us. Results are still being compiled and will be ready to present at the June Membership meeting.

Open Maryland ACDIS Opportunities

The position for Vice President is still open. No Leadership experience necessary, you will be mentored into your position by current leaders. Willingness to work as a team is a must!

Maryland ACDIS is in current need of a Vice -President and a Secretary. Nervous but curious? Contact any or all of the current leaders: Deb McClain, President dmcclain2@fmh.org, Teri Gruenberg, Membership Liaison tgruenb1@jhmi.edu or Christi Sarsarasin, Education Liaison [cgsarasin@gmail.com](mailto:cdsarasin@gmail.com)

Vice President – Team working skills required. This position's main role is to assist the President and cover when necessary and assist in Journal production. Conference help needed - Looking for a few dedicated professionals for conference outreach, conference planning and hands on help on conference day. No experience necessary!

Job Openings

Manager of Surgical services, John's Hopkins Hospital. Contact is Trish Dasch tdasch@jhmi.edu

If you have a job opening, please email Deb dmcclain2@fmh.org to have it included in next weeks agenda.

Sources for Accruing CEU's

Below is a list of upcoming CEUs. Please note that they are not listed in any order. You are encouraged to check their dates and times as some are sooner than others.

ACDIS is conducting a short survey on the impact of COVID-19. As a token of our appreciation, those who complete the survey will be entered to win a free on-demand ACDIS webinar of their choosing.

<https://acdis.org/articles/acdis-update-respond-our-covid-19-impact-survey-0>

Read the ACDIS May/June journal and obtain CEU after taking the exam

<https://acdis.org/articles/download-mayjune-2020-edition-cdi-journal>

<https://acdis.org/sites/acdis/files/May-June%202020%20CDI%20Journal%20CE%20Info.pdf>

3M offers CEUs almost every month. You can register for the year and the website will download the link straight to your calendar. Please see below

CDI webinar: https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/health-information-systems-us/resources/webinars/cdi-innovation-series/

Quality webinar: https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/health-information-systems-us/resources/webinars/quality-series/

ACDIS is hosting its first ever virtual symposium: [*Staying Engaged: ACDIS Presents Virtual Education and Community*](#), June 17-19, 2020.

This event will feature 11 education sessions from our previously scheduled main conference (which has been postponed until fall) that are particularly pertinent to the events of the world today. In addition, we've incorporated dedicated networking times between sessions which will be hosted on an interactive app. To register visit: <https://acdis.org/acdis-virtual>

FREE CEU: <https://digital.ahrq.gov/events/national-web-conference-role-telehealth-increase-access-care-and-improve-healthcare-quality>

FREE CEU: Determining Appropriate Level of Care (LOC) to Prevent Denials Tuesday June 9 at 1pm
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/293203874572581645>

ACDIS Updates

ACDIS announced that the annual conference scheduled for May in Las Vegas has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic till the fall. If you were planning on attending, please monitor the ACDIS website for updates and announcements.

ACDIS Quarterly Conference

The most recent call experienced technical difficulties and was re-recorded on 6/1. You can visit the ACDIS website and listen to the call, take the survey and obtain the CEU.

ACDIS Membership Renewal and Chapter Information

When renewing your membership, contact Mike Bryant directly for the Maryland Local Chapter discount (see Mike's information above). Also, please take a moment to visit the ACDIS website and fill out local chapter membership form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/chapter-membership-roster>

Mike Bryant, Retention Account Representative, 1- 800-650-6787 ext. 8127, mbryant@hcpro.com

2019 Renewal Rate for MD ACDIS Members-\$107

National ACDIS contact:

Current HCPro Representative: Caison Morisey, Senior Account Executive/Maryland Chapter Rep
1-800-650-6787 ext. 8108, cmorisey@hcpro.com