**GA-ACDIS Agenda**

**Northeast Georgia Medical Center**

743 Spring St. NE ● Gainesville, GA 30501

**Thursday, March 8. 2018**

0745-0830 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

0830-0845 Welcome by Linette Owen, Director of CDI & Marciann Robertson, GAACDIS Co-Chair

0845-0900 **Business Meeting & Introduction of 2018 Officers**

0900-1000 MI, ACS, & HCAHPS Review | Julie Bell, Senior Auditor/Educator | Navigant

1000-1100 Clinical Validation Query & Working with VAP Teams | Susan Sweeney, Consultant | Covenant HIM

1100-1115 **Break**

1115-1215 **Spotlight Topic Forum:** Clinical Validity, Denials Management & Clinical Appeals

Panel: Dr. Mark Ellison and Thomas Bour, RN CCDS | Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center; Dr. Lawrence V. Dudas | Northeast Georgia Health System

1215-1300 **Lunch (Sponsored by Apex Systems)**

1300-1400 Clinical Validity in the Onboarding Process | Tina Sonen, CDI educator

Remote WebEx Conference

Continental Breakfast sponsored by NGHS, CDI Department

Lunch Provided by GAACDIS

**CEUs applied for**

**Speakers**

**Dr. Mark F. Ellison, MD & Thomas Bour RN, CCDS**

Dr. Mark Ellison and Thomas Bour, Piedmont Athens, have agreed to be panelists for the forum. They will address clinical validity from the perspective of managing and appealing clinical denials; and how they work together to educate physicians. Dr. Ellison is a Urologist, Co-Physician Advisor for CDI, and works part-time reviewing clinical denials. Tom is the CDI manager for Athens, Newton, & Rockdale. Background: nursing and case management. He is an active member of GAACDIS, CCDS certified, and former parliamentarian.

**Lawrence, V. Dudas, MD**

Dr. Lawrence V. Dudas is an Internal Medicine Specialist here at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. He graduated with honors from Mercer University School Of Medicine in 2008. He attended undergrad at UGA with a degree in biology and did his Residency at University of South Caroling at Palmetto Health Richland. Dr. Dudas has more than 9 years of diverse experiences, especially in INTERNAL MEDICINE.

Dr. Dudas currently serves as Chief of Medicine and Chief of Inpatient Medical Sub Specialties for Northeast Georgia Physicians Group Inc.

**Bettina Sonen, RN, CCDS**

Bettina Sonen has been a Registered Nurse for 33 years. She graduated from Daytona Beach College with an Associate Degree in Nursing in 1985. Previously, she had obtained an Associate Degree in Science from Florida College. Tina has had experience initially as a home caretaker of a child with special needs, then caretaker of several people with catastrophic injuries. She also worked as a CNA in long term care. When Tina moved to Georgia, it was to begin her nursing career at NGHS. She worked on a surgical floor for several years on nightshift as a charge nurse. After marrying, she transitioned to the Concurrent Review department. Then later helped pilot and transition that department into Case Management, where she was a Case Manager for about 15 years. When the Clinical Documentation department was developed 13 years ago, Tina was one of the initial CDS. She is now the CDS educator. During her years at NGHS she has been coder certified, case management certified and now maintains a Clinical Documentation specialist certification.

**Susan Sweeney**

Susan Sweeney BSN, RN, CCDS works with the Covenant HIM Team. In her 20+ years as an RN, she has worked clinically in various Critical care settings including Cardiac ICU, Medical –Surgical ICU, and Emergency Services. Susan is a natural leader and has served in various leadership roles throughout her nursing career. This passion for nursing naturally leads her to the role of Certified Clinical Documentation Specialist. Susan knows that clinical documentation reflects the quality of services an organization provides to its patients.

Susan has worked with a variety of healthcare organizations with focus on increasing the accuracy of documentation and capture of co-morbid conditions to reflect the mortality index of the facility. This requires collaboration with staff, physicians and coders for quality and acuity of administered care. Through intensive chart audit review, Susan can provide recommendations to the team to impact: financial reimbursement, improved capture of secondary diagnosis for severity of illness and risk of mortality scores, and meet Medicare standards for documentation.

“...Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort.”

 John Ruskin

Susan also participates in redetermination, reconsideration and appeals process related to clinical denials. She has worked within hospital teams and provided education and training to staff, physicians and executive teams.

Susan received her BSN degree from Michigan State University.

Certified Clinical Documentation Specialist from the Association of Clinical Documentation Specialists.

Susan is currently pursuing her Certified Coding Specialist certification.

**Julie Bell**

Julie Bell is a Registered Nurse with 20 years of healthcare experience. Julie has a broad range of clinical expertise. Julie’s career has focused on Clinical Documentation Improvement since 2008. During this time Julie has worked as a Market Manager of CDI, Independent Chart Auditor, CDI Consultant and front-line CDI. She has served as an Officer for GA- ACDIS for several years. She has driven her CDI team to help improve quality scores through improving documentation. She has focused on education for staff, physicians and Administration within the facilities she was responsible for. Julie works to break down barriers and to forge new paths for her teams to be successful.