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| Journal of ACDIS, Maryland Chapter  February 2018 |
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Maryland ACDIS



# Upcoming Events

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| **Next Maryland ACDIS meeting**:  Friday, February 16, 1-3pm.  **2018 Membership meeting**  **dates:**    *\*By popular vote, the following meetings have been moved to 12 - 2pm*    April 40  June 15  August 17  October 19  December 7  **3rd Annual Maryland ACDIS**  **Conference will be Friday,**  **September 21, 2018**    More information will be  shared closer to the date |

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# Your voice matters!

At the December membership meeting it was suggested that we change our meeting start time to accommodate the heavy traffic following the meeting. Many voiced their concerns and suggestions. In January a vote was sent out to all the Maryland ACDIS members. We received 40 responses, and the majority of the responses voted to conduct the meeting from 12p -2p.

Our February meeting will be held from 1PM – 3PM. **We will meet from 12p – 2p beginning in April.**

**Planned CEUs**

February 16th: CDI in the Outpatient Setting presented by Mary Plevyak

April 20th: Everything you ever wanted to know about the CCDS exam but were afraid to ask presented by Candace Blankenship

# About the Maryland Waiver

By Candace Blankenship

Maryland ACDIS Education Coordinator

The first Maryland waiver started in 1972 as a way to experiment with new ways of delivering healthcare while protecting the financial health of the large healthcare institutions in our state.   Maryland is the only state with a Medicare waiver.  Instead of following federal Medicare rules for payment, hospitals in Maryland follow Maryland-specific rules.  Under these rules, every payer — whether an individual, Medicare, Medicaid or a private insurer — pays the same charge for the same care.  This is why Maryland is the only state that uses APR-DRG as its primary coding system.  Because of the waiver, hospital services delivered to Medicare patients in Maryland are paid by the federal government at a higher rate than would be the case without the waiver.   To keep the waiver, Maryland must slow the rate at which total hospital costs are increasing. Each waiver typically lasts 5 years.  The current waiver expires at the end of this year and Maryland has met the waiver's requirements of slowing healthcare costs and improved patient outcomes.  The state of Maryland and CMS are currently negotiating the new waiver that will take effect in January 2019.  The negotiations must be completed by July.  Because of changes at the federal level, the new waiver might be shorter than the usual 5 year allocation and some of the waiver goals might focus on transitioning Maryland into the federal monitoring programs.  The Maryland ACDIS chapter will be monitoring the negotiations and will provide our members with updates as they occur.  The goal of this year's conference will be to provide our chapter members with the knowledge and tools they will need to adapt to the changes that the new waiver will bring to CDI practice in Maryland.

**2018 Annual Maryland ACDIS Conference**

This year's conference will be help on Friday, September 21. The focus of the conference will be on the CDI impact of the new Maryland waiver that will begin in January of 2019.

This conference is a one day event that focuses on the unique clinical documentation nuances of Maryland. The conference committee has been working to organize another stellar conference. We thank you for all the feedback from last year’s conference and the team is diligently working to meet your expectations. More information will be coming closer to the date.

To learn more about what is ahead with the new waiver, please plan to attend the April 20th membership meeting.

**Volunteer needed for Maryland ACDIS Vice President Position**

The Leadership team is selfishly excited to announce that Kyle Gafney has decided to stay on as the Maryland ACDIS Secretary through the end of her term! Kyle plays a key role in keeping our chapter together and organized.

The Vice President position remains unfulfilled. Any interested member who has a potential interest in this position or would like to learn more can also contact Deb McClain at [dmcclain2@fmh.org](mailto:dmcclain2@fmh.org). This is a great opportunity to learn more about MD ACDIS leadership and what kind of commitment it takes to lead our organization without making a full commitment. We are seeking volunteers to fill these positions until elections are held. The Vice President, Secretarial and Membership Committee Chair positions will be open for nominations and voting later this year.

# Date set for next meeting with 3M and HSCRC to discuss the PPC Grouper

Justin Ziombra provided the following information: The next meeting with 3M and HSCRC to discuss the PPC grouper will be held on **Monday, April 9 from 1 pm to 3:30 pm in the Pierson Conference Center at MHA’s offices (6820 Deerpath Road, Elkridge).** Details and a summary of agenda items were emailed to all Maryland ACDIS members on February 12th.



**Highlights from the December meeting**

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# Olga Firstbrook and Andrea Norris were recognized for their commitment and dedication as our chapter President and Vice President. They will be missed but both have promised to remain active with the chapter.

Collectively we donated 43 new and unwrapped toys to the Marines Toys for Tots drive in December. This is impressive as we only had 24 members in attendance but were able to overflow the box! A sincere thank you to everyone who could participate.





# From the National ACDIS Journal:

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| [**Holiday events on the local level**](http://links.e.product.hcpro.mkt8096.com/ctt?kn=35&ms=MTI1MTg2OTYS1&r=MTY3NzQ3MzQ2NTY2S0&b=0&j=MTMwMDY4NDc2NgS2&mt=1&rt=0) |
| A little shout-out this week to the folks in Maryland who’ll meet this Friday for their annual pot luck  lunch and holiday celebration. The local chapter held a large, full-day educational  event earlier this fall which gathered roughly100 attendees. Informal, festive events such as this provide  its own benefit to members. Folks attending bring not only their culinary contributions and donations  for a local charity but also their CDI knowledge, experience, and good will to share with  other attendees. And while a bowl of smoking bishop probably won’t be in the mix,  CDI comradery certainly will be. |

# National ACDIS Conference

Mark your calendars for May 21-24 in San Antonio, Texas

The published ACDIS rates are: Early bird pricing – before March 20, 2018

ACDIS members - $850

Non-members $950

**However, ACDIS is offering a special discount rate for Maryland ACDIS members.** You can only get this rate by contacting Caison Morisey [CMorisey@HCPro.com](mailto:CMorisey@HCPro.com) or by phone at 800-650-6786 x 8108. This rate is not available online or through customer service, contact Caison directly for the $760 registration price. Also, you much be a member of Maryland ACDIS to receive this special rate.

See the ACDIS conference brochure for topics and details:

<https://acdis.org/sites/acdis/files/2018%20ACDIS%20Conference%20Brochure.pdf>

## Last year 38 Maryland ACDIS members, plus another 40 from the DC area attended the conference in Las Vegas. Look for more information in the coming months about a theme and decorations for state pride lunch and Maryland ACDIS diner get together.

Once again two of our Maryland members will be presenting:

\*Candace Blankenship will present *Secondary Effects of APR DRG Assignments*

\* Mark Dominesey will present *How to Engage and Motivate Your CDI Staff*

and *Pediatric Risk Adjustment for CDI Professionals*.

We are so proud to have these experts representing our great state of Maryland!