

ACDIS Regulatory Committee bios



Valerie A. Bica, RN, BSN, CPN, is the lead CDI specialist at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware. She has 40 years of pediatric/neonatal intensive care unit nursing experience, including case and care management, managed Medicaid, acute care pediatrics, pediatric and neonatal intensive care unit, and high-tech pediatric homecare. She served on the ACDIS Pediatric Respiratory Failure Work Group and is a co-leader for the pediatric ACDIS chapter. Bica also served on the 2017 ACDIS Conference Committee and was a contributing author to the book *Pediatric CDI: Building Blocks for Success*.



Candace Blankenship, RN, BSN, CCDS, is a CDI specialist at Johns Hopkins Health System and a member of the Maryland ACDIS chapter based in Baltimore, Maryland. Her journey in CDI began in 2014 in Baltimore City, where she still practices. In 2016, Blankenship was awarded the ACDIS Rookie of the Year award and presented on the topic of APR-DRGs at the 2017 ACDIS Conference. She worked closely with Elsevier to develop effective APR-DRG tools for their CDI education software and was a contributing author to the book *Pediatric CDI: Building Blocks for Success*.



Lori Drodge, RHIT, CCS, is the DRG Coordinator and CDI liaison in an acute care hospital in Maine with 30 years of experience in the HIM field. She was a coding supervisor for 15 years and has served as a member of the Kennebec Valley Community College Health Information Technology Advisory Board where she taught ICD-9-CM. She has also served as co-chair of MeHIMA's Data & Reimbursement Committee and is an approved AHIMA ICD-10-CM/PCS Trainer. She has trained CDI teams and coding professionals throughout the United States in her work as a consultant and has presented at various state conferences. Lori is currently serving as co-chair of the regulatory committee.



Faisal Hussain, MD, CCDS, CDIP, CCS, is corporate CDI director in clinical services at a large multi-hospital health system based in Tennessee. Prior to his current role, Dr. Hussain managed the CDI program at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset and was involved in numerous initiatives, including changing the workflow for patient safety indicators/hospital-acquired conditions, updating query forms for ICD-10 compliance, and creating action plans to collaborate with case management to reduce symptom DRGs. He has served on the ACDIS Conference Committee since 2016, and was also part of 2018 ACDIS CDI Week Committee. He has spoken on ACDIS Radio and was a presenter at the 11th annual ACDIS Conference in San Antonio.



Jeannie Kelly RN, CCDS, BS, MHA, is a senior consultant with Pinnacle Enterprise Risk Consulting. She is a skilled and accomplished healthcare consultant with more than 25 years of experience, possessing extensive experience in healthcare provider quality of care and Medicare payment safeguard functions, including Medicare policies and procedures, coverage and subrogation as well as case and risk management, reconsideration and appeals, fraud and abuse, compliance, and provider and beneficiary education. She conducted quality assurance of fact-finding surveys and complaint investigations conducted on behalf of CMS to verify healthcare entities' (hospitals, including EMTALA, ambulatory surgical centers, long term care facilities, home health agencies, hospice and ESRD) compliance with federal quality standards. She worked at a Fiscal Intermediary as an Operations Manager, managing Part A and Part B programs. Jeannie has directed a variety of Medicare projects, including program integrity verification and validation projects, Medicare secondary payer, Medicare medical review (including medical necessity reviews), reconsideration and appeals, fraud and abuse, and DMERC (a.k.a. DMEPOS) program operations, as well as claims research and claims scripting for 1-800-MEDICARE. Jeannie is a Subject Matter Expert in the CMS Two Midnight Rule and medical necessity determinations.



Lisa Kelly, RHIT, has been an active member of AHIMA since 1987 and has served as both member and chairperson of the Maine Health Information Association's Data and Reimbursement and Program and Arrangements Committees. She was a member of the Northern Maine Community College Health Information Technology Advisory Board and has taught Anatomy & Physiology and ICD-10-CM/PCS to coders. She acquired the AHIMA Approved ICD-10-CM/PSC Trainer certificate in 2012. She was a coding professional for 27 years before assuming the role as senior consultant for provider-based pre-bill auditing. Currently, Lisa is a DRG analyst for insurance post-bill recovery auditing and a member of ACDIS.



James S. Kennedy, MD, CCS, CCDS, CDIP, is president of CDIMD-Physician Champions, a Nashville-based group of physicians, coders, and clinicians engaged nationwide as CDI physician advisors, ICD-10 medical informaticists, and DRG and HCC compliance advocates. His expertise includes physician and hospital leadership, healthcare systems improvement, healthcare documentation and coding compliance, and government relations. He previously served on the ACDIS advisory board. Dr. Kennedy is also the lead instructor for the ACDIS/HCPPro boot camp *The Physician Advisor's Role in CDI*.



Cesar Limjoco, MD, is CMO of T-Medicus. For more than 25 years, Dr. Limjoco has focused on assisting hospitals in establishing clinical documentation integrity and delivered CDI services to critical access hospitals, community hospitals, regional referral centers, large academic medical centers, and multi-facility health systems located throughout the United States. He works with the hospital leadership, medical staff, CDI teams, coding units, quality and utilization management, appeals management, clinical dietitians, wound care, laboratory, and physical/occupational therapy. He has built a solid reputation of integrity and accuracy through a commitment to documentation and coding excellence that leads to accurate

reporting of patient data. Dr. Limjoco's philosophy is to provide the most accurate documentation of the patient encounter. This is accomplished through peer-to-peer physician education with the principal focus on the underlying CLINICAL TRUTH™. Dr. Limjoco's career path has brought him to work for a regional hospital association, a big four consulting firm, and a state quality improvement organization. A prolific author on clinical documentation and coding, he has presented at ACDIS national conferences, AHIMA national conference, various state and local AHIMA, HFMA and HCCA conferences. Dr. Limjoco has also been a guest speaker in national webinars and podcasts. He is also an editorial board member for the ICD10monitor.



Ruth A. Lutes, MS, RHIA is director of HIM at Michigan Medicine (University of Michigan) providing leadership and direction of all inpatient facility coding, CDI, and cancer registry operations. She creates partnerships with clinical and executive stakeholders to foster an understanding of coding, clinical documentation improvement, and the cancer registry. Prior to her role as HIM director, Ruth served on the EHR implementation team at Michigan Medicine and continues to partner with clinical and IT resources to improve documentation capture in the EHR, and oversees the capture and analysis of data regarding operational performance of the CDI program at Michigan Medicine.



Kevin Morrow, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P is manager of operations at Amenity Consulting, LLC, in Columbia, South Carolina, with more than 25 years of experience in the HIM field. Morrow has extensive knowledge of coding and reimbursement guidelines and has worked extensively with various inpatient and outpatient reimbursement methodologies. He has extensive experience in the development and delivery of educational curriculum in coding, medical terminology, pathophysiology, and anatomy & physiology to include responsibility for oversight and management of a consultant level, nationally recognized Coder Development Program. Morrow was also previously an ICD-10 trainer through the AHIMA.



Angelica Naylor, MBA, BSN, RN, CCDS, is the CDI supervisor at North Kansas City Hospital and co-chair leader of the Kansas City ACDIS chapter. With a love and desire for CDI advancement, ethics, and quality improvement, Angelica relocated to the Midwest after working as a CDI specialist for a major corporate health system in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas, where she received numerous awards for her fast-paced learning style, professionalism, and swift rise in CDI. Awards included Corporate Top Performer (multiple quarters) and Corporate CDI specialist Rookie of the Year. She also served as CDI mentor to fellow CDI specialists, especially in PCS coding and DRG assignment. Angelica possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience in many areas of nursing: Trauma/surgical/neuro ICU, burn ICU, PACU/recovery, utilization review, case management, and quality/risk management. Angelica has brought much success to the CDI program at her hospital by integrating a more collaborative workflow and relationship between CDI and HIM, establishing new CDI training, revising physician education, participating in denials management, and maintaining direct involvement with monthly hospitalist meetings.



Joan Oliver, MHA, BSN, RN, ACM, CCDS, is a CDI specialist covering the cardiothoracic and CCU teams at Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC. Before joining the CDI team, Joan worked in case management and assisting in embedding case management in the ED at Duke University. She has also worked as a legal nurse consultant, an ICU nurse, and home care nurse. Joan completed her MHA and in addition to her CCDS certification, holds a ACM certification. During her years as a case manager, she assisted on the planning committee of the NC chapter of ACMA.



Howard Rodenberg, MD, MPH, CCDS, is a physician advisor for CDI at Baptist Health in Jacksonville, Florida. An emergency physician by training, he has served as an associate professor at the University of Florida; as emergency services medical director; and as health department director for Florida's Volusia County and the state of Kansas; he has also worked with NASA. He has authored multiple publications and book chapters and given presentations around the world. His writing is featured on the ACDIS blog as well as at writingwithscissors.blogspot.com.

Committee chair

Allen Frady, RN, BSN, CCDS, CCS, CRC, is a CDI education specialist for HCPro/ACDIS in Middleton, Massachusetts. Frady teaches CDI Boot Camps and serves as a subject matter expert for ACDIS. He is an accomplished consultant with a background in coding and documentation. His experience includes 12 years as a coding consultant, two years as a coding director, and six years as a CDI consultant. His nursing experience includes work as a case manager and in cardiovascular care in ICU and telemetry.