
PRESS RELEASE:

Critical Medical Records Workforce Shortage Brings Transcription Associations to Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON DC, May 14, 2008 — Findings from a multi-disciplinary research team from Bentley College in Massachusetts show a dwindling available medical transcription workforce in the booming healthcare documentation market. This looming workforce crisis has brought members from the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI) and the Medical Transcription Industry Association (MTIA) to speak with federal legislators about the important role of documentation specialists in patient safety, continuity of care, and revenue cycle management.

This landmark Advocacy Summit, being held May 14th, 15th and 16th in Washington, DC, is intended to ensure a well-prepared workforce that can tackle future document creation needs as the industry adopts electronic record systems to improve care and reduce medical errors. Preliminary findings from the 2007 transcriptionist survey will be shared with legislators and are available online through www.ahdionline.org or www.mtia.com. The final report will be released at the AHDI annual convention and exhibition in Orlando, Florida, August 6-9, 2008.

“Healthcare enterprises rely on the documentation creation community to provide useable, relevant, and accurate patient care data in a timely manner to enable and direct ongoing clinical decision-making,” states Peter Preziosi, PhD, CAE, AHDI/MTIA chief executive officer. “However, with a grave shortage of qualified medical transcriptionists and few in the pipeline to replace this aging workforce, AHDI and MTIA need the help of legislators to mobilize the health information management community, technology vendors, and other stakeholder groups to create technology-enabled strategies that address the pending workforce shortages.”

“The medical transcriptionist is the most frequently forgotten part of the healthcare documentation production chain,” claims Gary David, PhD, associate professor of sociology at Bentley College and principal author of the medical transcriptionist survey. “Our investigation into the work of medical transcriptionists is meant to fill a major gap in how they are factored into the healthcare delivery chain. Quality healthcare delivery often depends on quality medical records, extending from patient treatment to healthcare providers recouping costs. Thus, if there exists a shortage of medical transcriptionists, a gap in the document production process occurs, thereby creating gaps on a number of levels.”

--- M O R E ---



About AHDI

The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI), formerly AAMT, has been the professional organization representing medical transcriptionists since 1978. AHDI sets standards of practice and education for medical transcriptionists, administers a dual credentialing program, has established a code of ethics, and advocates on behalf of the profession. There are nearly 100 component associations of AHDI, each of which holds regular educational meetings and symposia. For more information, visit www.ahdionline.org.

About MTIA

The not-for-profit Medical Transcription Industry Association (MTIA) is the world's largest trade association serving medical transcription service operators. Its mission is to create an environment in which medical transcription companies can prosper, grow, and deliver the highest level of healthcare documentation services. For more information, visit www.mtia.com. The two associations formed a strategic legal partnership in 2007 to pool critical resources and collaborate on key initiatives focused on optimizing healthcare delivery by providing timely, accurate and relevant clinical information.

#

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lea Sims, CMT, AHDI-F
Director of Communications
AHDI/MTIA
904-733-8437
lsims@ahdionline.org