
PRESS RELEASE:

AHDI and MTIA Commit to High-Integrity Best Practices for the Transcription Industry: Release Compliance and Transparency Manual

WASHINGTON, DC, January 7, 2010 — Heightened privacy and security concerns, increased calls for transparency of operations, and a growing home-based workforce have prompted The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI) and The Medical Transcription Industry Association (MTIA) to create their *Manual of Ethical Best Practices for the Healthcare Documentation Sector*. The manual will help healthcare documentation/medical transcription businesses and professionals to adopt policies and procedures for complying with HIPAA privacy and security laws and operating in a manner consistent with ethical best practices related to transcription billing, compensation, and outsourcing. The manual is part of the associations' ongoing commitment to safeguarding protected health information and upholding the integrity of the profession and industry.

“With the emerging demand from healthcare delivery for increased standardization and greater specificity around exchange of health information, the time is ripe for the healthcare documentation sector to look closely at its compliance practices to ensure that the sector is best positioned to respond to the future needs of health care,” states AHDI/MTIA CEO Peter Preziosi, PhD, CAE. “We want to be a resource for business owners and healthcare documentation professionals in developing policies, procedures, and contracts that reflect high-integrity business practices and promote transparency around key issues that reflect well on the industry as a whole.”

To be just such a resource, the associations convened an advisory council composed of industry content and practice experts, i.e., transcription professionals, managers, quality assurance coordinators, educators, and medical transcription service owners and executives, to provide input regarding areas that could benefit from the creation of ethical best practices and to assist in content development for the manual. Council participants recognize that a set of ethical best practices is a necessity at this time of greater regulation, scrutiny, and enforcement by the federal government.

“The medical transcription/healthcare documentation industry is entering a new age of regulation with the increased emphasis on data privacy and security by consumers, the healthcare industry and the government combined with the trend towards increased governmental scrutiny of healthcare vendors,” says Scott Edelstein, Esq., a partner in the health law practice of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P. “For many, this will require a sea change in attitudes about legal and regulatory



compliance. Healthcare reform as well as federal and state initiatives to eliminate fraud will only underscore the need for compliance.”

While the entire manual will be officially launched at the MTIA Annual Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida, on Saturday, May 1, the first set of manual documents, including sample HIPAA policies and procedures and sample business associate agreement, are already available for purchase to help healthcare documentation businesses and professionals meet their current regulatory obligations as soon as possible.

For more information about the AHDI/MTIA *Manual of Ethical Best Practices for the Healthcare Documentation Sector*, please contact AHDI/MTIA Member Services toll free at 800-982-2182 or via email at ahdi@ahdionline.org.

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. For more information, visit www.ahdionline.org.

About MTIA

The 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.

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