New ACDIS scholarship to help CDI professionals advance their careers

Continuing education is vital for every professional in their long-term career success, and that’s especially true in healthcare. Education happens in and out of the classroom, including at networking events and annual conferences. But funding these types of opportunities can be a challenge for some organizations, and so ACDIS has launched its first-ever scholarship program to support three individuals in their professional development.

Melinda "Mel" Tully
Posted September 30, 2019

Every profession evolves over time—and that’s no truer than in the realm of CDI professionals,
who must learn and adapt each and every day. Continuous learning happens daily, with every new case and each interaction. But, formalized continuing education remains especially vital. The benefits of continuing education are wide and well-documented, from improving your earning power and career path to staying current with clinical learning and supporting your organization in its success.

Education happens in and out of the classroom; I’ve learned so much from the people I’ve met at networking events, where I’ve had the opportunity to converse and collaborate with people who share my values and do the same types of work as me. Likewise, we at Nuance strive to help our clients be successful, and so we have long focused on education for our clients. For decades, we have taught documentation strategies supporting final coding strategies, rather than codes, as a means to CDI success.

Because we value continuing education and fully appreciate the importance of in-person, structured, and unstructured learning, we have partnered with the Association of Clinical Documentation Integrity Specialists (ACDIS), who earlier this month announced their first-ever scholarship program for CDI professionals. Funding for these types of opportunities can present a challenge for some healthcare organizations, and so this program is designed to support three individuals in advancing their knowledge and education – and therefore their careers – as well as share best practices with colleagues.

In closing, I wanted to share another resource for continued learning. Check out our recent Nuance in Healthcare podcast episode, The impact of CDI on the patient story with Angie Curry. Angie highlights the importance of educating oneself as much as possible and taking advantage of educational opportunities to support your knowledge.

**Tags:** CDI, clinical documentation improvement

---

**About Melinda "Mel" Tully**

Melinda (Mel) Tully is the vice president of clinical services and education for Nuance Healthcare, overseeing the development and expansion of clinical documentation programs and clinical education best practices. Mel joined Nuance in 1998 and has more than 25 years of experience in multiple healthcare arenas as a provider, clinical manager in a large academic facility, and as an expert in clinical documentation improvement (CDI). Mel attended Emory University, where she earned her Master’s degree in Nursing. She has been certified through the Association of Clinical Documentation Specialists (ACDIS) as a clinical documentation specialist, as well as by the American Health Information and Management Association (AHIMA) as a documentation improvement practitioner.

[View all posts by Melinda "Mel" Tully](#)