

CDI

Clinical Documentation Improvement

Specialist Certificate Program



Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) Specialist Certificate Program

The CDI program developed by 3M and offered through CHIMA is a certificate program for nurses who would like to pursue a new and exciting leadership role opportunity!

CDI is an emerging program in Canada as organizations identify the need to better reflect the complexity, acuity and resources used for patients, thus impacting quality measures, data, development of best standards and funding. Who better to be in this role than a nurse!

Physician documentation is often received in clinical terminology, not always listing the diagnostic equivalent. Highly-skilled nurses have the in-depth knowledge of disease processes, symptomology and appropriate treatment, as they have a background in the body systems, differential diagnoses, and corresponding common co-morbidities/complications associated with various diagnoses.

Many organizations have transitioned nurses in their respective organizations into this role as they have the knowledge and skills to “connect the dots” of signs and symptoms to lab/test results and then the treatment, thus identifying opportunities for diagnosis and/or specificity what was not documented by the physician.

The nurse continues to be a part of their respective unions as the position is just simply a transition to a new role, perhaps within their own organization. Often these positions provide an opportunity for nursing staff who have had injuries and who are unable to work at the bedside any longer.

The roles of a CDI specialist include directing and managing the daily operations and processes of the program, such as:

- Conduct in-depth chart analysis to review the quality of the clinical documentation and identify any gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- Act as a liaison between the coding team and physicians.
- Gather data and analyze performance metrics to focus CDI efforts.
- Develop tools, and resources to support both coding staff and clinicians.
- Provide training materials and deliver educational sessions.
- Implement solutions to leverage technology and electronic health record.

The position brings an exciting opportunity for nurses to bring their skill and expertise to the forefront and be a part of improving overall healthcare in Canada!!!