New leaders step forward for local chapters

Editor’s Note: Local Chapter meetings and educational efforts are a natural outgrowth of ACDIS’ mission to bring CDI specialists together to share the latest tested tips, tools, and strategies to implement successful CDI programs and achieve professional growth. Although the association fosters these efforts through regular leadership meetings, guidance, free products, and other give-a-ways, the success, and amazing growth of ACDIS Local Chapters, stems from the dedicated efforts of dozens of volunteers.

These volunteers step forward to host and plan events, maintain membership contact information, apply for continuing education credits, research speakers and assess the educational importance of potential presentations. Furthermore, they nurture and mentor their local chapter networking members offering a secure environment where professionals can comfortably ask questions about documentation improvement.

The following individuals recently stepped forward to lead networking groups in their region.

Children’s hospitals

Valerie Bica, BSN, RN, CPN, CDI specialist at Nemours/AI duPont Hospital for Children, in Wilmington, Del., leads the Association of Pediatric Documentation Improvement Specialists (APDIS) networking group. She has 35 years of pediatric/neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) nursing experience, the last 10 years at the duPont Hospital for Children. Her previous experience includes case management, care management, managed Medicaid, acute care pediatrics, and high tech pediatric homecare. Bica helped establish the AI DuPont CDI program where she conducts concurrent clinical reviews of inpatients, education sessions for new attending physicians, monthly education for residents, attends bedside rounds with treatment teams. Contact her at vbica@nemours.org.

Arizona

Gloria Richardson, RN, CDI specialist at Scottsdale (Ariz.) Healthcare Osborn Medical Center, leads the Phoenix, Ariz., ACDIS Chapter. Born and raised in Sacramento, Calif., Richardson has been a nurse for more than 40 years, including time in several acute care facilities. She has experience in disease management and utilization review, claims review, and account management.

A CDI specialist since 2004, she organized the first Phoenix-area CDI networking meeting in September 2012 which gathered 22 CDI-related professionals. Contact her at GRichardson@SHC.org.

Colorado

Eric Ryland, MS, RHIA, CCDS, CHDA, CCS, CPC, manager of coding at Denver Health Medical Center, serves as co-leader for the Colorado ACDIS Chapter. He has more than 20 years experience in coding and compliance related activities. A presenter at the 2012 ACDIS Conference in San Diego, he is involved in his state with the Colorado Hospital Association and with the ICD-10 Task Force in Colorado. Contact him at eric.ryland@dhha.org.

Jane Hoyt, BA, BSN, RN, CCDS, manager of the CDI program at Denver Health Medical Center serves as co-leader of the Colorado ACDIS Chapter. A nurse for nearly 20 years, Hoyt joined the CDI team at the program’s inception in 2008. She enjoys the challenge of CDI and is committed to the integrity and mission of the CDI Profession. Contact her at jane.hoyt@dhha.org.
Connecticut
MaryAnn Shanley, RN, CCDS, CDI specialist at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, in Hartford, leads the Connecticut ACDIS Chapter. A native of New Jersey, she has experience in various nursing and related management roles. Contact her at MShanley@stfrancisicare.org.

Idaho
Robin Hetzler, RN, CDI specialist at Kootenai Health in Coeur d’Alene, leads the newly created Idaho ACDIS Chapter. A nurse for 20 years, Hetzler came to the CDI profession in June 2012. Contact her at rhetzler@kmc.org.

Indiana
Teresa Leap, RN, BSN, MBA, CDI specialist at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis, recently became president of the Central Indiana ACDIS Chapter. Previously vice president of care management consulting for The Schumacher Group and national director for health advisory services for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Leap hopes to help local CDI programs advance their documentation improvement efforts. Contact her at Teresa.Leap@wishard.edu.

Lisa A. Farhar, RN, MSN, CCDS, CDI liaison for Indiana University Health was recently named vice-president of the Central Indiana ACDIS Chapter. A nurse since 1995, her background includes cardiac, medical, and progressive care work. She joined the CDI team at IU Health when it started and in 2000, and earned her CCDS credential in 2009. Contact her at lfarhar@iuhealth.org.

Angie Green, ASN, BA, CDI specialist at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis was recently named secretary of the Central Indiana ACDIS Chapter. Green’s experience includes time spent as director of nursing for long term care, orthopedics and neurology, case management director, and quality/process improvement roles. Contact her at AGreen3@ecommunity.com.

Massachusetts
Sarah T. Eby, RN, BSN, MHA-Inf, CDI specialist at Tobey Hospital, Southcoast Hospitals Group in Wareham, heads the newly re-launched Massachusetts ACDIS Chapter. A nurse for more than 15 years, Eby has experience in management for both acute- and long-term care. Contact her at EbyS@southcoast.org.

Michigan
Patti Nemeth, BSN, RN, CCDS, CDI supervisor at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, co-leads the Michigan Chapter of ACDIS (MACDIS). She has more than 20 years experience in nursing, taking on a CDI role five years ago. Contact her at Pnemeth1@hfhs.org.

Missouri
Sara K. Baine, MSN-Ed, CCDS, CDI specialist at SoutheastHEALTH in Cape Girardeau, is president of the Heartland ACDIS Chapter which gathers CDI professionals from a number of states at the joining of Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. A nurse since 1990, Baine joined the CDI profession in 2010 and earned her CCDS credential in 2012. Her background includes experience in cardiothoracic intensive care, surgical progressive care, as well as administrative roles as a nursing supervisor and manager of inpatient cardiac rehabilitation for the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Contact her at sbaine@sehealth.org.

Christina Dunning, RN, BSN, CDI specialist at St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, serves as the vice president of the Heartland ACDIS Chapter. A nurse since 2004, Dunning’s experience includes time as critical care nurse for cardiac, trauma, and dialysis. Contact her at cdunning@sfmt.net.
Dawn Witty, RN, BSN, CDI specialist at SoutheastHEALTH, serves as secretary of the Heartland ACDIS Chapter. With 13 years experience in nursing including time in both inpatient and outpatient endoscopy, Witty came to CDI in 2010. Contact her at dawitty@sehealth.org.

Vivian Bollinger, RN, BSN, CDI specialist at SoutheastHEALTH, serves as the treasurer of the Heartland ACDIS Chapter. Her 30-year nursing career includes experience in medical-surgical, orthopedic-neurology, home health, among other specialties. She joined the CDI profession in 2010. Contact her at vbollinger@sehealth.org.

Nebraska
Cory Price, RN, BSN, case manager/CDI specialist at Nebraska Spine Hospital in Omaha, leads the Nebraska ACDIS networking group. She has more than 17 years of nursing experience, and nearly five years’ experience in CDI efforts. Contact her at Cory.Price@alegent.org.

Oregon
Eileen Pracz, RN, CCDS, CDI specialist at Oregon Health & Science University serves as president of the chapter. With 17 years of nursing experience, Pracz moved to Portland to become a CDI specialist in 2004, earned her CCDS certification in 2010, and helped start the Oregon ACDIS Chapter serving as its first president. Contact her at pracze@ohsu.edu.

Janet Barber, RN, BSN, MBA, CDI specialist at Providence Portland (Ore.) Medical Center serves as secretary for the nearly 4-year-old networking group. Barber, a past president of the group, has been a nurse for 35 years, working in intensive care, labor and delivers, home health, utilization management, compliance and other areas. She joined the CDI profession in 2010. Contact her at janet.barber@providence.org.

Virginia
MaryLee Traver, RN, CDI specialist at Henrico Doctors’ Hospital in Richmond, helps lead the Virginia ACDIS Chapter. A nurse since 1975, her experience includes time as medical/surgical staff nurse, nurse manager, director of home health, and director of oncology inpatient services among other roles. She has worked as a CDI specialist since 2010. Contact her at MaryLee.Traver@HCAhealthcare.com.

Texas
Barbara Anne Presley, RN, CCDS, CDI Specialist at University Medical Center Brackenridge leads the Austin/San Antonio ACDIS Chapter. A nurse for more than 20 years, primarily in cardiology, she joined the CDI profession in 2006. For information, contact her at baPresley@seton.org.