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## **New Credentials for a New Era**

**MODESTO, CA, August 8, 2022**—Technology has drastically altered the landscape of healthcare documentation and, in turn, the role of the healthcare documentation specialist (HDS). In recent years, HDSs have worked as medical secretaries, medical transcriptionists, speech recognition editors, and more recently auditors of clinician-created documentation and scribes. Regardless of the title, the goal has always been the same: ensuring complete and accurate patient health stories that support optimal healthcare outcomes.

More healthcare professionals than ever are creating and interacting with the medical record. Providers, scribes, medical assistants, coders, HDSs, etc., are all responsible for capturing the patient’s story accurately and completely.

Through research and analysis, we have identified professional standards required to successfully work within the medical record. Because AHDI advocates for a fully credentialed workforce, the Credentialing Commission for Healthcare Documentation (CCHD) developed a new credential using those standards. This new credential will validate an individual’s knowledge and expertise as a healthcare documentation professional. The Certified Healthcare Documentation Professional (CHDP) credential is intended for anyone who interacts with the medical record. Two micro-credentials have also been developed—one for auditors (CHDP-A) and one for scribes (CHDP-S)—that will further attest to the specific knowledge required for these roles. Covered topics include medical terminology, clinical medicine, HIPAA privacy & security, regulatory compliance, health information technology, documentation standards, critical thinking skills, patient risk evaluation, and job roles and responsibilities.

Cyndi Sandusky, CHDS, AHDI-F, Chairperson of the CCHD, is “excited to offer credentials for those working in capacities other than traditional transcription or speech recognition editing.” She says, “In addition to validating an individual’s general knowledge of the healthcare record, the CHDP allows for not only scribe and auditor micro credentials, but additional ones as new roles in healthcare documentation evolve.”

The CHDP, along with the Scribe and Auditor microcredentials, are now available. Learn more at [www.ahdionline.org/chdp](http://www.ahdionline.org/chdp).

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**About AHDI**

The [Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity](http://www.ahdionline.org) (AHDI) is a not-for-profit association representing the individuals and organizations in healthcare documentation. AHDI leads, educates, and advocates for professional excellence and integrity in all aspects of healthcare documentation practices worldwide. We envision a future where optimal healthcare outcomes are supported by complete and accurate patient health stories. Learn more about AHDI by visiting our website, [www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org).