



Association of Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists (ACDIS)

CODE OF ETHICS

The ACDIS Code of Ethics serves as a guide for the professional behavior of its members and nonmembers who hold the certified clinical documentation specialist (CCDS) credential. This code of ethical standards for members of ACDIS strives to promote and maintain the highest standard of professional service and conduct among its members. Adherence to these standards assures public confidence in the integrity and service of all members of ACDIS.

VALUES

All ACDIS members and credentialed nonmembers agree to maintain the highest standard of personal and professional conduct. Members and credentialed nonmembers shall respect the rights of patients, clients, employers, and all other colleagues. ACDIS is committed to recognizing the intrinsic worth of each member.

ACDIS members and credentialed nonmembers define professional values as:

- Honesty
- Acting in a manner which brings honor to self, peers and profession
- Committing to continuing education and lifelong learning
- Performing association duties honorably
- Strengthening professional membership
- Representing the profession to the public
- Promoting and participating in research

These professional values require balancing competing interests and obligations of those who seek access to health information and require an understanding of ethical decision-making.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

The following ethical principles are based on the core values of ACDIS, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), and the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). They apply to all ACDIS members and nonmembers who hold the CCDS credential.

Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists shall:

1. Advocate, uphold, and defend the individual's right to privacy and the doctrine of confidentiality in the use and disclosure of information.
2. Use only legal and ethical means in all professional dealings and shall refuse to cooperate with, or condone by silence, the actions of those who engage in fraudulent, deceptive or illegal acts.
3. Put service and the health and welfare of persons before self-interest, and conduct themselves in the practice of the profession so as to bring honor to themselves, their peers, and to the clinical documentation improvement profession.
4. Preserve, protect, and secure personal health information in any form or medium and hold in the highest regard the contents of the records and other information of a confidential nature, taking into account the applicable statutes and regulations.
5. Refuse to participate in or conceal unethical practices or procedures.
6. Advance their specialty knowledge and practice through continuing education, research, publications, and presentations.
7. Recruit and mentor students, peers, and colleagues to develop and strengthen the professional workforce.
8. Perform responsibilities of the ACDIS honorably, whether those responsibilities relate to appointed or elected positions, and preserve the confidentiality of any privileged information made known in any official capacity.
9. State truthfully and accurately their credentials, professional education, and experiences.
10. Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration in situations supporting clinical documentation improvement practice.
11. Respect the inherent dignity and worth of every person.
12. Avoid participation in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud and abuse, or deception.

To learn more about how the Code of Ethics should be applied visit
<https://acdis.org/membership/ethics>.