Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI) Orientation for Locums & New Providers

ASPIRUS HEALTH

Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.

Objectives

Define CDI and it’s importance to providing quality care.

Review process for ensuring accurate documentation.

Clarify expectations on CDI along with query response

Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI) Team

- Ensures that patient health records are accurate, complete, and reflect the true severity of illness and care provided.
- Consists of Registered Nurses who review records during or after a patient's stay to ensure accuracy.
- Collaborates with the provider team when documentation is unclear or insufficient clinical support by issuing a query to request additional information
  - This process is designed for collaboration and clarity.
  - Queries are not designed to be punitive or accusatory.

Why CDI is Important

Clear and accurate documentation ensures we are providing the highest possible care to our patients and communities.

Improved Communication	Provides Key Metric Data	Accurate Reimbursement	Regulatory
• Clear records mean better communication • Errors are reduced when care hand-offs occur	• Quality metrics are optimized through CDI • Informs efforts to improve quality or processes • Risk adjustments and mortality indices are determined through this data	• Reduces claim denials • Ensures appropriate reimbursement for complexity of care	• Reduces the risk of audits or penalties

How CDI Impacts Mortality and Quality

When information is entered correctly, we can accurately analyze the data and the care we provide.

- Accurate diagnosis documentation ensures proper mortality index calculation, including diagnoses such as hypokalemia, cachexia, pulmonary hypertension.

- Improves hospital quality rankings and public reporting accuracy.
  - Patients seek care from organizations they can trust to deliver quality care.
  - Hospitals can be penalized for inaccurate documentation which can impact reimbursement.

- Supports continuous improvement in patient outcomes and safety.
  - Provides clarity on potential process gaps.
  - Helps us determine if the improvements we put in place are helping increase the quality of care provided.

- Helps identify high-risk populations for quality initiatives.
  - Common themes in data help us determine where to build programs to support our patients and our communities.

Your Role in CDI

As a Provider it is essential to ensure that all patient care is documented in Epic clearly and appropriately, and to engage in the query process when necessary.

Throughout the care process

Accurately document the complete clinical picture and care provided throughout the admission	Ensure documentation supports diagnoses and all procedures performed.

Queries will be sent when more clarity is needed

Respond promptly to CDI queries with appropriate specificity.	Clarify ambiguous diagnoses and link them to clinical indicators.	Responses are expected within 24-28 hours from receipt.

Benefits of Engaging in the CDI Process

Clear documentation and participation in the CDI query process is a benefit to you.

Collaboration with CDI in real time will ensure comprehensive capture of patient acuity and care provided, helping to negate the need for retrospective follow-ups.

Optimizes health care quality and reported metrics, supporting transparency and public trust.

Protects providers by accurately reflecting clinical decision.

How to Respond to a Query

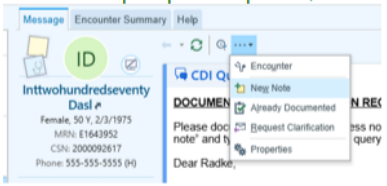
CDI queries will be found in the Epic in-basket

- You will respond to the query utilizing a new note and a SmartList to assist you.
- A quick guide to this process can be found in Epic.

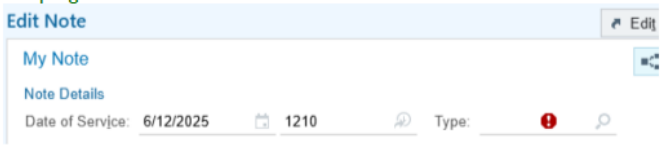
Responding to a Query with a new note and a SmartList

NOTE: not all queries have the SmartList options available at this time

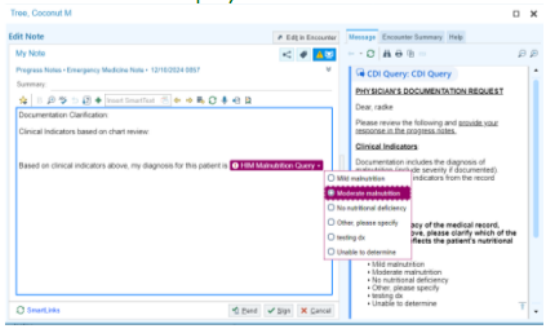
1. From the InBasket elipse option drop down, choose the option for for 'New Note'



   a.
2. When responding with a new note, the 'type' of the note will need to be selected~ most times this would be a progress note.



   a.
3. Within the new note, it will include a SmartList (or multiple) that you can use to select the diagnosis clarification for the query.



   a.
   b. To select your option, click on the drop-down arrow, select the correct radio button and use the 'return/enter' button on your keyboard to confirm your option.
4. Sign and complete your note per normal processes.

Where to Go if You Have Questions

- CDI Physician Advisors
  - Ridhwi Mukerji, MD – System Physician Advisor
    - Ridhwi.Mukerji@aspirus.org
  - Daniel Bowman, MD – Physician Advisor , MN region
    - Daniel.Bowman@aspirus.org
- Team
  - Shelley Stokosa – CDI Director
    - Shelley.Stokosa@aspirus.org
    - 72617
  - April Zimmerman, RN – CDI Manager
    - April.Zimmerman@aspirus.org
    - 47585

In Summary

Our collective goal is documentation that reflects true patient complexity and care quality.

- CDI ensures accurate clinical representation and quality reporting.
- Provider engagement and timely query response are vital.
  - Timely response is expected (24-48 hours) to answer your CDI query.
  - All queries should be addressed and closed at the end of your service rotation.