

2026 Virtual Fall Conference Program*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026 Virtual Sessions Only (6.0 CEUs)	
8:30AM - 9:00AM EST	Get connected to Zoom. Grab your cup of coffee and get ready to learn!
9:00AM - 10:00AM EST	<i>Artificial Intelligence and Health Information- A green or red light?</i> Nicole VanAndel, MS, RHIA, CHPS, CHDA, CDIP Senior Lecturer at Indiana University-Indianapolis
10:00AM - 11:00AM EST	<i>Revenue Integrity: The Chargemaster Connection</i> Lindsay Austin, MBOE, RHIA, CRCR, LSSBB Senior Consultant at Blue & Co.
11:00AM - 12:00PM EST	<i>Coding Impact on Denials</i> Jennifer Swindle, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, CDIP, CPC, CPC-M, CIC, CPMA, CEMC, CFPC, AAPC Fellow Coding and Compliance Strategic Leader at Salud Revenue Partners
12:00PM - 12:30PM EST	LUNCH BREAK
12:30PM - 1:30PM EST	<i>The E/M Downcoding Crisis: What Every Practitioner Needs to Know</i> Deborah Grider, CPC, CPC-I, CPC-P, COC, CEMC, CPMA, CCS-P, CDIP Executive Consultant at Karen Zupko & Associates
1:30PM - 2:30PM EST	<i>Beyond the Revenue Cycle: Using Analytics to Identify Hidden Documentation and Coding Opportunities</i> Thad Perry, PhD Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Bill Dunbar and Associates, LLC This presentation is sponsored by: Bill Dunbar and Associates, LLC
2:30PM - 3:30PM EST	<i>From Clinic to Bedside: Strengthening Quality Outcomes Through Integrated CDI Education</i> Lori Ganote, MSN RN CCDS CLIMB Director of CDI Quality at Velarity HCS

*Agenda may be subject to change without notice.

Last revised 9/27/2026

2026 Virtual Fall Conference Program Description

Friday, November 6, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

CONNECT TO ZOOM

Grab your cup of coffee and get ready to learn!

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM SESSION

Artificial Intelligence and Health Information- A green or red light?

Nicole VanAndel, MS, RHIA, CHPS, CHDA, CDIP

Senior Lecturer at Indiana University-Indianapolis

This presentation will define artificial intelligence. It will also include information about how AI is being used in the health information management field. Participants will learn the benefits and challenges of artificial intelligence.

Domain: Evolving Topics/Other HIM Relevant Topics – 1 CEU

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM SESSION

Revenue Integrity: The Chargemaster Connection

Lindsay Austin, MBOE, RHIA, CRCR, LSSBB

Senior Consultant at Blue & Co.

Agenda Topics:

- Revenue integrity across the full revenue cycle
- How the CDM affects charge capture, coding, pricing, billing, and compliance
- Operating Room level design and charge reconciliation
- Emergency Department facility leveling and monitoring
- Compliance controls, governance, and accountability

Domain: Revenue Cycle Management – 1 CEU

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM SESSION

Coding Impact on Denials

Jennifer Swindle, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, CDIP, CPC, CPC-M, CIC, CPMA, CEMC, CFPC, AAPC Fellow

Coding and Compliance Strategic Leader at Salud Revenue Partners

This presentation will focus on denials that are impacted by coding; including medical necessity, prior authorization, modifiers and how to resolve them and means to reduce them in the future. How denials can be tracked and effectively managed.

Presentation Goals:

- Understanding denial reasons
- Review of common coding related denials
- Means to reduce denials
- Effectiveness of working top types of denials

Domain: Revenue Cycle Management – 1 CEU

LUNCH BREAK

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM SESSION

The E/M Downcoding Crisis: What Every Practitioner Needs to Know

Deborah Grider, CPC, CPC-I, CPC-P, COC, CEMC, CPMA, CCS-P, CDIP

Executive Consultant at Karen Zupko & Associates

The growing trend of E/M downcoding is creating significant financial and compliance challenges for healthcare providers. Many organizations are seeing claims reduced to lower-level codes, resulting in lost revenue and increased audit risk. This webinar will uncover the root causes of downcoding, explain how payers are applying these changes, and provide actionable strategies to protect your practice. Learn how to document effectively, identify red flags, and implement best practices to ensure accurate reimbursement. If you're a provider, coder, or compliance professional, this session is essential to safeguard your bottom line and maintain compliance.

Upon completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Understand the root causes of E/M downcoding and why it's increasing.
- Learn how payers are applying downcoding and its impact on reimbursement.
- Identify documentation gaps that trigger downcoding and audits.

Domain: Data Structure, Content, and Information Governance – 1 CEU

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM SESSION

Beyond the Revenue Cycle: Using Analytics to Identify Hidden Documentation and Coding Opportunities

Thad Perry, PhD

Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Bill Dunbar and Associates, LLC

Healthcare organizations often assume that a well-managed revenue cycle will identify all available clinical documentation and coding opportunities. However, revenue cycle management and clinical opportunity identification serve fundamentally different functions. This presentation will explore why organizations should distinguish between efficiently processing the revenue cycle and using advanced analytics to identify documentation, coding, and reimbursement opportunities that may remain hidden within existing workflows. Attendees will learn how clinical, claims, and longitudinal patient data can be analyzed to identify missed diagnoses, documentation gaps, coding patterns, and other opportunities that complement rather than duplicate traditional revenue cycle activities. Real-world healthcare examples will demonstrate how an analytics-driven approach can strengthen documentation and coding integrity, improve the accuracy of the patient record, and more completely reflect the clinical complexity of the populations healthcare organizations serve.

Upon completion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Differentiate the roles of traditional revenue cycle management and analytics-driven clinical documentation and coding opportunity identification.
- Identify how clinical, claims, and longitudinal patient data can be used to uncover documentation gaps, missed diagnoses, and coding opportunities not captured through existing workflows.
- Describe how advanced analytics can complement existing revenue cycle processes to strengthen documentation and coding integrity and more accurately represent patient clinical complexity.

This presentation is sponsored by: **Bill Dunbar and Associates, LLC**

Domain: Informatics, Analytics, and Data Use – 1 CEU

From Clinic to Bedside: Strengthening Quality Outcomes Through Integrated CDI Education

Lori Ganote, MSN RN CCDS CLIMB

Director of CDI Quality at Velarity HCS

This session explores how integrated Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI) education can bridge those gaps and improve quality performance across the continuum of care. Attendees will learn how documentation influences CMS quality metrics, risk adjustment, value-based payment programs, and publicly reported outcomes. Through practical examples, participants will gain strategies to improve documentation consistency, accurately capture patient complexity, and strengthen collaboration among CDI, HIM, quality, coding, and provider teams. Join us to discover how aligned documentation practices can create a more complete patient story, support fair performance measurement, and ensure quality outcomes more accurately reflect the care delivered.

Objectives:

- Understand how physician documentation across inpatient and outpatient settings directly impacts CMS quality metrics, including mortality, readmissions, patient safety indicators, and public reporting.
- Recognize the role of accurate risk adjustment in reflecting true patient complexity within value – based payment models.
- Identify common documentation gaps between care settings and how collaborative CDI education can improve continuity.
- Apply practical strategies for aligning documentation practices across the continuum of care.
- Quality outcomes, reimbursement, and public reporting all depend on accurate clinical documentation, yet documentation efforts often remain fragmented across inpatient and outpatient settings.

Domain: Revenue Cycle Management – 1 CEU

2026 Virtual Fall Conference Speakers



Lindsay Austin, MBOE, RHIA, CRCR, LSSBB

Senior Consultant at Blue & Co.

Lindsay Austin is a Senior Consultant with nearly two decades of experience in healthcare revenue cycle, operations, and consulting, including more than a decade in senior leadership. She specializes in revenue cycle improvement, partnering with key stakeholders to strengthen financial performance, ensure compliance, and build sustainable processes. Her expertise spans the full revenue cycle, with deep knowledge of revenue integrity, charge description management, pricing strategy, and health information management. She has led major strategic and operational initiatives for a large academic medical center and multidisciplinary ambulatory care organization, driving long-term, measurable results.



Lori Ganote, MSN RN CCDS CLIMB

Director of CDI Quality at Velarity HCS

Lori is a (CDI) subject matter expert with 10 years of experience in mid-revenue cycle leadership. A master's-prepared nurse, she specializes in aligning clinical documentation with quality outcomes, regulatory compliance, and financial integrity across complex healthcare systems. Known for translating clinical practice into accurate, compliant documentation that supports patient acuity, performance metrics, and organizational goals. Her experience includes building and mentoring high-performing CDI teams, partnering with physicians and multidisciplinary stakeholders, and guiding programs through regulatory change and operational growth. Lori brings actionable insights and real-world strategies to advance CDI practice, strengthen provider engagement, improve denials outcomes, and elevate program performance.



Deborah Grider, CPC, CPC-I, CPC-P, COC, CEMC, CPMA, CCS-P, CDIP

Executive Consultant at Karen Zupko & Associates

Deborah is an executive consultant with Karen Zupko & Associates and a nationally sought-after leader in the industry. She is passionate about assisting physicians and hospitals in improving their coding, documentation, and business operations to maintain compliance and improve revenue. Deborah holds multiple coding certifications, including Certified Professional Medical Auditor, and is a certified Clinical Documentation Improvement Practitioner. Deborah brings over forty years of healthcare industry experience as a practice administrator, medical record auditor, clinical documentation improvement practitioner, and sought-after speaker, author and educator. She has worked with a variety of medical specialties. She works with physicians, hospitals, and outpatient facilities, both small and large, and provides practice assessments, revenue cycle guidance, coding, auditing, CDI development, education, and project management. She also provides litigation support to attorneys nationally for their physician and health-system clients. Deborah combines teaching with practical advice on coding and revenue cycle issues for many national organizations. She has numerous book and publishing credits, including publications for the American Medical Association, Delmar Publishing, and the Society for Critical Care Medicine. She has also developed coding program curricula for organizations including IU Health and Martin University. She currently serves on the ICD-10 Monitor Editorial Board and Indiana Health Information Management Association Executive Board of Directors as the treasurer. She is the past president of the Indiana Health Information Management Association and the past president of the American Academy of Professional Coders National Advisory Board. Deborah has served on the CPT Editorial panel and the editorial board of Contexo Media. She is the 2017 AHIMA Triumph Literacy Legacy Award Recipient.



Thad Perry, PhD

Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Bill Dunbar and Associates, LLC

Thad Perry, Ph.D., is a healthcare technology and analytics leader with more than 30 years of experience spanning health plans, healthcare providers, clinical analytics, and population health. He currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at BDA Health Informatics, LLC, where he leads strategy and innovation in advanced healthcare analytics and informatics. He is also a Research Professor at Tennessee Technological University, where his academic work focuses on healthcare informatics, analytics, and applied research. Dr. Perry previously held senior leadership positions at Health Catalyst, Conduent, Thomson Reuters Healthcare, CareSource, Healthways, and Cigna Healthcare. He has worked with healthcare organizations nationwide to improve the use of clinical, claims, and population health data to support better decision-making and healthcare outcomes. Dr. Perry previously served as Director of Tennessee Tech's Center for Healthcare Informatics. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from Vanderbilt University and has authored peer-reviewed publications and book chapters in healthcare analytics and predictive modeling. He also serves in the Tennessee Army National Guard and has more than 20 years of military service.



Jennifer Swindle, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, CDIP, CPC, CPC-M, CIC, CPMA, CEMC, CFPC, AAPC Fellow

Coding and Compliance Strategic Leader at Salud Revenue Partners

Jennifer Swindle has more than 35 years' experience in the healthcare industry. In her role as Coding and Compliance Strategic Leader with Salud Revenue Partners, she is responsible for physician and staff education, identifying compliance risks and providing resolution, providing coding outsourcing to assist clients with timely coding and filing needs and providing chart audits and data review for assessment of current coding practices.



Nicole VanAndel, MS, RHIA, CHPS, CHDA, CDIP

Senior Lecturer at Indiana University-Indianapolis

Nicole Van Andel has her Master's Degree in Adult Education and her Bachelor's Degree in Health Information Management both from Indiana University. She is serving as a Senior Lecturer in the IU Indianapolis Health Information Management Program and has been in this role since 2015. Her main areas of focus include teaching students management, research, project management, documentation requirements and standards. She has served as the IHIMA President twice. She is the CCHIIM chair.

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