

# e-Perspectives

on the Medical Transcription  
Profession

Published by  
Health Professions Institute  
Modesto, California

May 2009  
Issue 57

Editor & Publisher  
Sally Crenshaw Pitman, M.A.

John H. Dirckx, M.D.  
Ellen Drake, CMT, AHDI-F  
Laraine Sookhoo

Circulation  
Debbie A. Cook  
Carmen Trammell

Cover Art  
Ellen Drake

*e-PERSPECTIVES on the Medical Transcription Profession*, an electronic magazine, is published periodically by Health Professions Institute, P.O. Box 801, Modesto, CA 95353-0801. Phone 209-551-2112, fax 209-551-0404. Send e-mail to [hpi@hpisum.com](mailto:hpi@hpisum.com). Copyright ©2009, Health Professions Institute.

Address changes and updates may be made on-line at <http://www.hpisum.com/register.ihtml>, or by mail or fax to Health Professions Institute, P.O. Box 801, Modesto, CA 95353-0801, fax 209-551-0404.

This electronic magazine is available to the public on-line at the Health Professions Institute Web sites: <http://www.hpisum.com> and [www.SUMprogram.com](http://www.SUMprogram.com). Correspondence should be sent to [hpi@hpisum.com](mailto:hpi@hpisum.com), and manuscripts to Editor, *e-Perspectives*. E-mail: [spitman@hpisum.com](mailto:spitman@hpisum.com).

The opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher or the staff of Health Professions Institute. All material in this magazine is provided for information only.

## Why We Matter

The 20th anniversary conference of MTIA (Medical Transcription Industry Association) took place in Louisville, Kentucky, April 22-25. The stated theme of the conference was "Going the Distance," and the very fact of MTIA's continued existence in this dynamic healthcare marketplace owes a great deal to its providing numerous opportunities for successful networking among medical transcription businesses over the past 20 years. Indeed, the association from the beginning has provided a forum for the many mergers and acquisitions that have consolidated the industry. MTIA leaders now plan a name change to better reflect the association's new alliances, strategic partnerships, member expansion, and possible business certification criteria. According to MTIA President Linda Yaniszewski, MTIA is developing best business practices "for improving the exchange, consistency, security, and quality of clinical documentation to optimize patient care delivery." That will indeed be "going the distance" from that first gathering of eighty-something business leaders over 20 years ago. Just being in the same meeting together then, cordially discussing the industry and agreeing to work together to build an association, seems long ago and far away. We've certainly gone the distance "to expand our voice and capitalize on healthcare market reform," to quote Yaniszewski.

The unofficial but oft-quoted theme of the conference, however, was "Why We Matter." Why do medical transcription companies matter in the current giant multi-billion dollar healthcare marketplace? Unenlightened vendors of speech recognition technology (SRT) continue to make lavish claims that their products will eliminate the need for medical transcription components in future electronic medical records (EMRs). The SRT vendors sell their products to unwitting clinicians who are desperately trying to keep up with requirements and demands and promised claims of efficiency needed in the next generation of high-tech healthcare delivery systems. Enlightened vendors of SRT, however, are partnering with medical transcription business leaders to integrate people with technology and, according to Robin Daigh of MD-IT in *For the Record*, April 13, "present clients with integrated solutions that accommodate the wide variety of documentation workflows."

Medical transcriptionists *matter*, and our participation in new technological developments will secure our future in the industry. Our increased knowledge, advanced education, and continued dedication to good healthcare delivery for the *patient* will provide a value-added feature of the new EMRs.

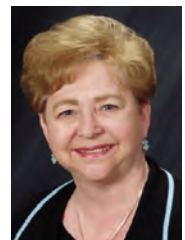
This is the 57th issue of *Perspectives* magazine (first in print form and now electronic) since 1990. Featured in this issue is Dr. John H. Dirckx's medical article, "Turmoil Within: Perspectives on Irritable Bowel Syndrome," a symptom complex that costs American society more than \$20-30 billion annually.

In "Searching the 'Wild, Wild Web'" Ellen Drake and Georgia Green present an update on more effective Internet research techniques, which all of us necessarily need in order to be more efficient researchers.

Rich Lederer both entertains and enlightens us with two columns in this issue: In Looking at Language, "Under a Spell," he explains why we will never have simplified spelling reform despite the efforts of many orthographers over the years. Another column, Jest for Fun, "The World According to Student Bloopers," will have you laughing off your chair. In the vein of "kids say the darnedest things," high school and college students write them. Scary . . .

A special treat in this issue is Judith Marshall's personal essay, "Totally Hip." It's a humorous look at her own hip replacement surgery and successful rehabilitation.

Rounding out this issue is a 4-page list of new, difficult, or hard-to-find terms in "What's New in Medicine." You can tell we've been searching the Wild, Wild Web!



Sally C. Pitman

# Continuing Education can. . .

Increase Productivity

Expand MT Skills to Cover  
More Accounts

Make Downtime Productive

*MTs: broaden your skills with focused instruction in specific areas!*

## INTERPRETING ESL MEDICAL DICTATION

- Two hours of dictation, 38 reports
- Asian, Hispanic, and Middle Eastern dictators
- 15 medical specialties and subspecialties
- Tips on interpreting ESL dictation
- Approved for CECs from AHDI



SUM PROGRAM  
The Medical Transcription Education Program  
Career Development Series

Health Professions Institute

### Interpreting ESL Medical Dictation

\$99

2 hours of dictation  
38 reports  
Accurate transcripts  
15 medical specialties  
Dictators from Asia, Middle East,  
Latin America  
41 pages of guidelines, tips,  
patterns of foreign dictators

43 CECs

### Interpreting Anatomic Pathology Dictation

3 hours of dictation  
9 medical specialties  
95 reports: 52 micro,  
29 gross, 14 path tests  
Accurate transcripts  
5 articles (42 pages)  
6 quizzes (165 questions)  
Path glossary with definitions  
*Lab/Path Words and Phrases*

40 CECs

\$99

## INTERPRETING ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY DICTATION

- Anatomic Pathology Procedures and Practices, by John H. Dieck, M.D.
- Autopsies and Careers in Death Investigation, by Sidney Moomseiler, Ph.D.
- Almost three hours of real dictation
- Autopsy reports
- Gross & microscopic reports in 9 specialties
- Guidelines, Exercises
- Prior-approved by AHDI for CECs



SUM PROGRAM

Health Professions Institute

### Interpreting Radiology and Imaging Dictation

\$99

2-1/2 hours of dictation  
119 reports in plain, contrast, MRI,  
CT, ultrasound, nuclear  
Accurate transcripts  
Articles on imaging  
Transcription guidelines  
Exercises, quiz, puzzle  
*Radiology/Imaging Words and Phrases*

42 CECs

## INTERPRETING RADIOLOGY and IMAGING DICTATION

- Medical Imaging Procedures, by John H. Dieck, M.D.
- Over two hours of real dictation
- 119 reports  
Contrast Radiography  
Plain Radiography  
Ultrasonography  
Magnetic Resonance Imaging  
Computed Tomography  
Nuclear Imaging
- Guidelines, Tips, Exercises
- Prior-approved by AHDI for CECs



SUM PROGRAM  
The Medical Transcription Education Program  
Career Development Series

Health Professions Institute

## The SUM Program Career Development Series

SUM PROGRAM

The SUM Program for Medical Transcription Training

Career Development Series

- Difficult dictations to challenge even experienced transcriptionists who already know the specialty.
- Production improves with greater competence.
- Learn at your own pace.
- Low cost skill building.
- 2-3 hours of real dictation.
- Accurate transcripts.
- Specialty-specific instruction.

They're SUM—  
so you know they're good.



Health Professions Institute

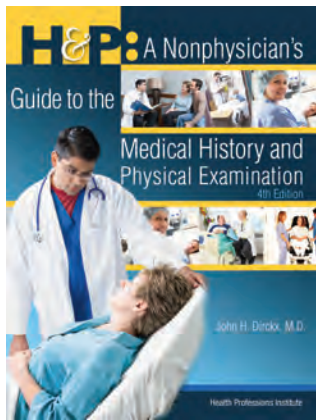
The LEADER in high-quality  
medical transcription education  
and reference products

www.hpisum.com

www.SUMprogram.com

# Transcriptionists Can Learn and Earn . . . CE Credits

## H&P: A Nonphysician's Guide to the Medical History and Physical Examination, 4th ed.



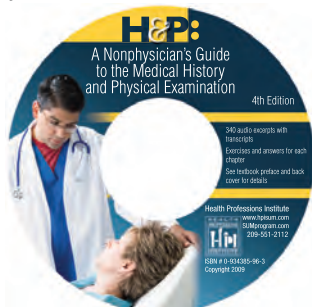
Written by John H. Dirckx, M.D., this best-selling book is now shipping with exercises and answers plus audio dictation clips on a CD!

- Explains the H&P report paragraph by paragraph.
- Helps readers decipher difficult dictation.
- Contains separate chapters for each step of the H&P exam.
- Includes hundreds of excerpts from authentic H&P reports.
- Discusses and defines medical jargon along with formal terms.

- Lists relevant words and phrases alphabetically in For Quick Reference sidebars.
- Contains photos and anatomical drawings throughout.
- Includes a glossary of words and phrases not found in most standard references.

### The CD is NEW for this edition. It features:

- Audio files for listening exercises with written transcripts so readers can correlate reading with actual dictation.
- Comprehensive written exercises with emphasis on critical thinking skills. Students can enter their answers and print out or else submit to the teacher electronically.
- Unique exercise types including:
  - Review and Summarize
  - Pause and Reflect
  - Relate and Remember
  - Collaborate and Share
  - Explain and Learn
  - Relax and Play
  - Generalize and Apply
  - Compare and Contrast
  - Extrapolate and Project
- Answer keys to objective exercises.



**Great to prepare for credentialing exams or to earn CE credits. AHDI approved for 24 CECs! Just \$34.**

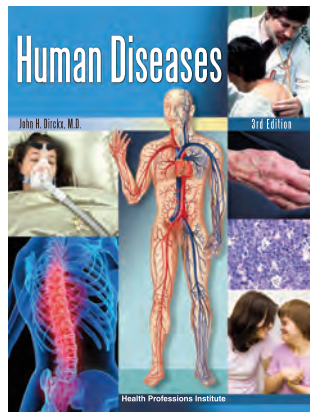
## Vera Pyle's Current Medical Terminology, 11th ed.



### In electronic format!!

A 1,022-page PDF file with convenient search capability that instantly takes you to all the uses of your word. Numerous bookmarks and category headings. Glossary format: definitions, explanations, and examples of usage. See [hpsium.com](http://hpsium.com) for system requirements. **Just \$24.**

## Human Diseases, 3rd ed.



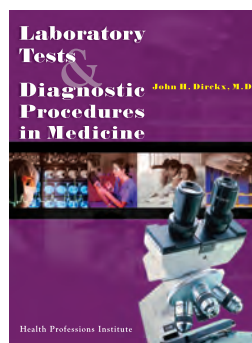
Written by John H. Dirckx, M.D., *Human Diseases* contains the latest information on the diseases most commonly encountered in dictation, including causes, symptoms, diagnostic tests, diagnoses, and treatment regimens.

It includes:

- Chapter outlines
- Learning objectives
- Labeled illustrations
- Special interest boxes on word origins
- Glossary
- Comprehensive index
- Case Study: You're the Doctor, where readers are challenged to make medical and ethical judgments from the physician's perspective.
- The exercises that make *Human Diseases* so valuable for transcriptionists are included on a CD. Students can enter their answers and print out or else submit to the teacher electronically.



**Great to prepare for credentialing exams or to earn CE credits. AHDI approved for 20 CECs! Just \$36.**



## Laboratory Tests and Diagnostic Procedures in Medicine, by

John H. Dirckx, M.D., covers diagnostic studies, including imaging, EEG, EMG, endoscopy, electrophysiology, genetic testing, and more. Includes the lab and path studies that are important to MTs.

**Great to prepare for credentialing exams or to earn CE credits. AHDI approved for 24 CECs! Just \$38.**

## The Medical Transcription Workbook, 2nd ed.

is loaded with readings and exercises in Professional Issues, Style & Usage, Anatomy & Physiology, Medical Terminology, Surgery, Pathophysiology, Laboratory, and Pharmacology, with hundreds of examples. Answers on CD. **Prepare for credentialing exams or earn CE credits. AHDI approved for 147 CECs! Just \$40.**

