

e-Perspectives

on the Medical Transcription Profession

Published by
Health Professions Institute
Modesto, CA

April 2005
Issue 50

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e-PERSPECTIVES on the Medical Transcription Profession (ISSN 1066-3533) 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. Web site: <http://www.hpisum.com>. Copyright ©2005, Health Professions Institute.

Address changes and updates may be made on-line at <http://www.hpisum.com/register.html>, 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 site: <http://www.hpisum.com>. Correspondence should be sent to hpi@hpisum.com, and manuscripts to Editor, e-Perspectives@hpi@hpisum.com.

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Life Lessons

Adrienne Yazijian, an author well known to readers of *Perspectives* magazine over the past 15 years, died in December 2004 after surgery and a brief illness. We all expected that, with her indomitable spirit, she would triumph and be back with us after the New Year. She didn't make it but her spirit will always be with us, and we will always remember her zest for life and the many positive ways she touched our lives. "She applied life lessons to her business, and business lessons to her life."

This is the 50th issue of *Perspectives* magazine, which has evolved over 15 years of publication to its present electronic format. As an e-zine, *e-Perspectives* will be available to a wider and wider audience of healthcare professionals who value the substantive original articles we publish. *e-Perspectives* will now be available worldwide to anyone with an Internet connection. The PDF articles may be downloaded and printed by those who want a print copy for reference.

Advances in stem cell research are much in the news these days, and medical transcriptionists will increasingly encounter new terms on these and related topics in medical dictation. Featured in this issue of *e-Perspectives* is Dr. John Dirckx's "Bioethics in the Laboratory: Perspectives on Embryonic Stem Cell Research." He presents a thorough and thoughtful analysis of the nature of stem cells and their role in biomedical research, and describes the ethical dilemmas faced by those involved in such research. In addition, he provides an extensive 4-page glossary of terms used in stem cell research. (These terms and other additional terms are included in the new 10th edition of *Vera Pyle's Current Medical Terminology*, available from Health Professions Institute.)

Sidney Moormeister, who mentors new medical transcriptionists and those thinking of medical transcription as a career, offers much-needed advice about educational pathways and choosing qualified schools. We hope "Foiling P.T. Barnum . . ." will help to dispel myths about training and prevent a potential student from being "a sucker born every minute."

Ellen Drake presents articles for both teachers and students in this issue. In Teaching Tips she offers help on teaching a course in disease processes or human diseases, including class activities, textbook activities, testing, and a complete course description. Student Scope presents a brief review of comma usage, with 12 comma rules, an exercise in applying the rules, and answers and explanations.

Rich Lederer recounts what he calls the most important linguistic anniversary of our lifetimes. In Looking at Language, he tells the story of the development of the first modern dictionary by Samuel Johnson, published in 1755. At HPI we've had experience publishing dictionaries as well. This month we just released the 10th edition of *Vera Pyle's Current Medical Terminology*. Vera Pyle long ago followed Dr. Johnson's practice of defining terms and providing supporting quotations from medical dictation. Now, if only we could "dominate the field for a century," as Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* did, . . .

Renee Priest, with her unique brand of self-deprecating humor, tries to cope with the inevitable hazards of being a sedentary medical transcriptionist of a certain age. Various coping mechanisms for presbyopia, and exercises for arms, fingers, lower back, repetitive stress syndrome, and arthritis—all to achieve pain-free productivity and job longevity—are described with good-natured humor in "The heating pad is behind the pickled eggs!"



Sally C. Pitman