

e-Perspectives

on the Medical Transcription
Profession

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Where Your Treasure Is

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:19). I've been thinking a lot lately about where *my treasure* is. It's not just an idle thought these days, when so much has been shaken up in our businesses, families, and everyday life. The economic crisis has touched most of us in some way or in many ways, depending on our circumstances, and it can't help but make us wonder what really matters in our lives and why.

Anyone in business today has to wonder where we are going financially and how we will handle the journey. What resources do we have to protect ourselves and those we care about? The belief that "All we have to fear is fear itself" doesn't reassure me at all. Fear is a driving force in the daily lives of many people I know and read about and see on TV or hear about from others. Fear can immobilize us and keep us from thinking positively and creatively. On the other hand, it motivates some to be innovative and entrepreneurial.

What do our colleagues, customers, employers, families (fill in the blank) need to help them be successful in these difficult times, and what can I do to meet their needs? That's the standard question for every entrepreneur: find what the market needs and find a way to meet the need.

I've never considered myself a particularly entrepreneurial person. I don't like risk-taking and I don't like surprises or uncertainty. Yet everything I have ever done (with great personal and professional effort) has actually been highly risky and the outcome or success highly uncertain. What keeps me (and all my friends and family) going is a healthy balance of optimism and realism. Our hearts are in our work and our families, and therein lies our treasure.

This holiday season comes in a time of great uncertainty throughout the world. It's a time for us to focus on what's important and to look beyond ourselves to share with those less fortunate than we.

Among the many things I am grateful for is *e-Perspectives* magazine. It's been a vehicle for publishing fine articles and announcing the products of research and development in the medical transcription profession for the past 18 years. Without it and its predecessor, readers would have been deprived of the contributions they have made to the medical transcription profession and industry.

Our feature article in this issue is Dr. Dirckx's "Guy Talk: Perspectives on Selected Topics in Andriatics"—in short, men's health, primarily urologic health. Health concerns unique to men account for many of the medical and surgical reports and procedures that medical transcriptionists encounter in their work. A shorter informative article from Dr. Dirckx is "Negative Pressure Wound Therapy." He describes various wound therapy treatments that are refinements of existing knowledge and techniques.

A special treat in this issue is a new column from a favorite author of many of us—Judith Zielinski Marshall. "Check Mates" is a tribute to her husband Stuart, who died last year after many illnesses. We will all miss him, and we are glad to have Judith's columns back.

Ellen Drake's "Interpreting Medical Language" essay provides a greater understanding of the interpretation and decision-making process used in quality medical transcription. She compares and contrasts MTs with foreign language interpreters and shows how important it is for a medical transcriptionist to have a rich and varied knowledge of both English and foreign languages as well as medical language.

In this issue Rich Lederer entertains and informs us with his "World's Toughest Grammar Test" consisting of four challenging questions. "What's New in Medicine" rounds out the issue with four pages of new, difficult, and hard-to-find terms.



Sally C. Pitman

New!

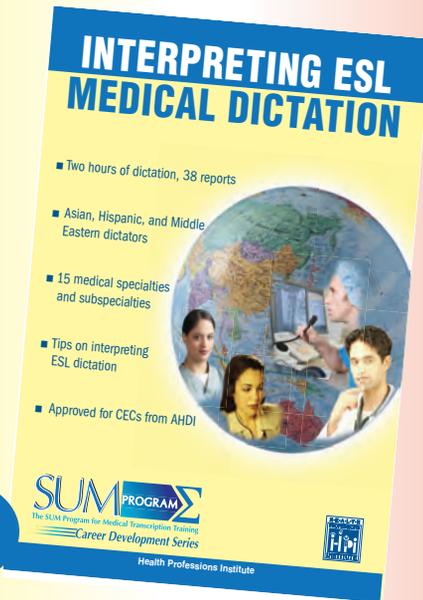
Health Professions Institute
announces a new line of products for MTs:

New!

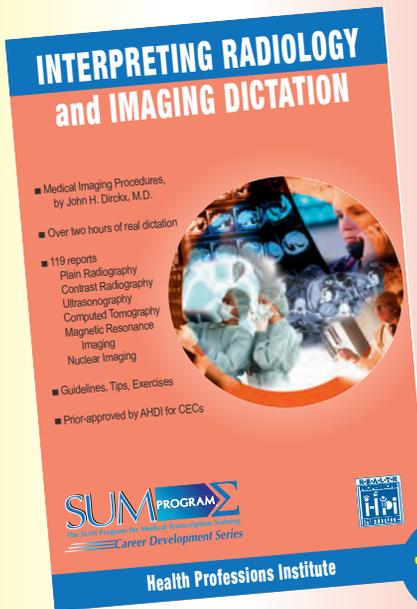
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