

Education/Early Career: Hello, my name is Christina. Soon after graduating from high school, I decided that I wanted to major in HIM. I enrolled in Weber State University's online program and started my first class in HIM in the fall of 2003. I also began my career at this same time by volunteering: while attending Weber, I volunteered in an acute care facility and a long term care facility. While studying inpatient records at the acute care facility, I discovered my keen interest in medical coding. I continued my classes and simultaneously studied, researched, and practiced medical coding until I earned my CCS at the end of my junior year (2005). After graduating in May 2006, I focused my efforts on earning two more credentials (RHIA and CCS-P). I am now pursuing a master's degree in HIM with computer information systems emphasis with an expected graduation date of December 2008.

Professional Involvement/Experience: My theme is professional involvement to the greatest extent possible. I write articles for the following publications including *Advance for HIM professionals*, AHIMA's *CodeWrite*, and *For the Record*. I also serve as both co-author and manuscript editor for medical coding and reimbursement textbooks. As a member of AHIMA, I serve in the following capacities: AHIMA task force member, Computer-Assisted-Coding Workgroup coordinator, and Community of Practice facilitator for the Studying for the CCS, Coding for Orthopaedics, and Clinical Laboratory Billing communities.

I have also coded and audited interventional cardiology records for a radiology company, have coded and reviewed OP dx & procedure coding for multiple specialties and clinics of a teaching facility, and have also assisted with claims denial management for physician-based interventional cardiology services. As owner and moderator of multiple coding and billing related Web groups, I work to provide guidance and mentoring to students, tools and resources for inpatient coders struggling with the new MS-DRGs, and a forum specifically for coding and reimbursement educators.

Personal: I live and work as an independent coding and education consultant in middle Georgia. My personal interests include Bible/devotional study and inspirational music. I play the saxophone and the piano and sing gospel songs in English and Spanish. As the oldest in my family, I enjoy spending time with my two younger siblings (ages 6 and 9). I also enjoy sewing and baking for my family.

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." ~ 2 Cor. 13:11