

e-Perspectives

on the Medical Transcription Profession

Published by
Health Professions Institute
Modesto, CA

July 2005
Issue 51

Editor & Publisher
Sally Crenshaw Pitman, M.A.

Editorial Staff
Linda Campbell, CMT
John H. Dirckx, M.D.
Ellen Drake, CMT
Laraine Sookhoo

Circulation
Debbie A. Cook
Carmen Trammell

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.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 site: <http://www.hpisum.com>. Correspondence should be sent to hpi@hpisum.com, and manuscripts to Editor, *e-Perspectives*, 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.

Summer at the Beach

I'm not really spending the summer at the beach. Just doing some wishful escapist thinking.

The problem is *not* that I don't have the means and opportunity to spend the summer at the beach or anywhere else in the world I wish. The truth is that, for the first time in my long life, I don't have the *desire* to travel or have adventures at some exotic place in some other part of the world. Fortunately, during our 42 years of marriage, my husband (now retired after 32 years of teaching geography to thousands of college students) and I traveled all over the country and to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, and many times to countries in Western and Eastern Europe. We have fond memories of our travels and the many adventures we've shared and the numerous people we have met over the years. But at this time in our lives, we are grateful that we did not wait until we *retired* to travel. So many people do that and then when they are older, they don't have the health or sufficient resources to travel as they wish. My advice to all my friends under the age of 50 is to travel while you are young and healthy and can enjoy it. You don't know what the future will bring. If you still feel like traveling when you are older, great! You can just do it all over again.

This is the 51st issue of *Perspectives* magazine, which has evolved over 15 years of publication to its present electronic format. As an e-zine, *e-Perspectives* is now available to a wider and wider audience of healthcare professionals who value the substantive original articles we publish. *e-Perspectives* is now 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.

In this issue of *e-Perspectives*, Sidney Moormeister walks down memory lane as well, and she looks back at the rich work experiences she has had in the medical transcription industry. She "found her place within the maze" and offers tips to others new to the field on how they can find their niche. "It's not for sissies," she warns.

Phil Cohen knows the importance of growth capital for medical transcription businesses, and in this issue he provides helpful advice to business owners who daily struggle to survive the slow-paying healthcare accounts they service. Understanding how the system works and how you can work within it can mean the difference between merely surviving and succeeding masterfully.

Six years ago Linda Campbell wrote an essay on "The Four-Semester Myth" to combat the narrow-minded thinkers of the time who thought that the only appropriate setting for medical transcription students to learn their craft was in a two-year degree program. Linda argues it is the number of *practice hours* (at least 500 hours) that produces competency, not the number of semesters. We decided that it's worth repeating this article from our archives.

Rich Lederer provides a quiz on U.S. presidents to test our knowledge of our national leaders' "firsts, onlys, and mosts." Just for fun.

John H. Dirckx, M.D., dazzles us, as usual, with his interesting and informative essay on various cosmetic and aesthetic surgeries and treatments for facial rejuvenation. Many of these processes have been popularized through recent television programs extolling the latest "extreme makeover" efforts of not only the rich and famous but also fairly ordinary people who strive to rejuvenate or fix whatever is wrong with "the face." This article surveys many chemical and surgical procedures for reversing the facial signs of aging as well as improving on Nature.

Four pages of What's New in Medicine complete this issue. Many of the new terms are drawn from the 10th edition of *Vera Pyle's Current Medical Terminology* (2005), but a few are drawn from subsequent research for the second edition of HPI's *Radiology Imaging Words and Phrases* (2005), which will be available in late July.



Sally C. Pitman