

The Metropolitan Emergency Services Board-Metro Region EMS System is happy to announce that the National Academy of Ambulance Coding's *Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist* (CADS) class is coming to the metro area March 10, 2020. The CADS class is a 7-8 hour course (just one full day) and we can accommodate over 50 students. This class is intended for only EMS providers from the metro region. Online class registration will begin January 15<sup>th</sup> at <http://emsmn.org/event-registration/>

- Wednesday, March 10, 2020 0830-1630  
Woodbury Public Safety  
2100 Radio Drive  
Woodbury, MN

So why a class on EMS clinical documentation?

Kuhn, et al (2015) concluded "clinical documentation was developed to track a patient's condition and communicate the author's actions and thoughts to other members of the care team. Over time, other stakeholders have placed additional requirements on the clinical documentation process for purposes other than direct care of the patient. More recently, new information technologies, such as electronic health record (EHR) systems, have led to further changes in the clinical documentation process. Although computers and EHRs can facilitate and even improve clinical documentation, their use can also add complexities; new challenges; and, in the eyes of some, an increase in inappropriate or even fraudulent documentation."

Complete and accurate EMS patient record documentation fosters quality and continuity of care.

A recent CADS student from the metro region stated, "While the content of the course is well in line with the materials that we have been teaching, I believe the legitimacy of a well renowned national training group from outside MN and the quality of the course material creates a high level of motivation to improve documentation performance. The course also provides a solid platform for the QA committee members to conduct their reviews. The class covers documentation framework, fundamentals, special situations, narrative improvement, CMS compliance, medical necessity and signature requirements all designed to protect providers and agencies (including medical directors)."

All metro EMS providers are encouraged to attend!

Improved EMS documentation and narrative skills will also enhance the use of good clinical data for process improvement (improved outcomes), research, and risk management initiatives. Excellence in EMS documentation nurtures a means of communication between providers and between providers and patients about health status, treatment, planning, and delivery of care.

The Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist (CADS) training is also for ambulance billing personnel - anyone involved in the ambulance revenue cycle.

**CADS certification is recommended for billing office supervisors and managers, compliance officers, QA coordinators and upper level management in an ambulance service, billing company or any other entity involved in ambulance billing or reimbursement.**

**Such as those involved in:**

- **Reviewing patient care reports**
- **QA/performance improvement**
- **Research**
- **Selecting procedure codes, diagnosis/condition codes and modifiers**
- **Filing ambulance claims**
- **Payment, follow-up, appeals and review processes**
- **Internal claims auditing**