

R+B Sten-Tel participates in the AHDI & MTIA Advocacy Summit

In February President Obama signed into law the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) inclusive of the HITECH Act, which has a goal to develop a national electronic healthcare system by offering financial incentives to clinicians who adopt Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems. However, in order to qualify, clinicians must demonstrate “meaningful use.” The definition of meaningful use is presently under consideration and will be shaped by the Office of The National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Peter Minio, Director of Business Development, traveled to Washington, DC the first week of June as a participant in the advocacy summit on behalf of his colleagues in the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI) and the Medical Transcription Industry Association (MTIA). Medical Transcriptionists, salespeople, business owners and executives all gathered to meet with their legislators as constituents. Along with others from Pennsylvania, Peter met with the legislative health care advisors to Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey as well as those who advise many of the Pennsylvania Representatives including Patrick Murphy and Paul Kanjorski.

The objective was to address the definition of “meaningful use” by educating our nation’s legislators on some of the pitfalls related to EMR implementations and how the medical transcription industry is actually a proven accelerator to Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption.

Below are some of the key points Peter and his colleagues made on Capitol Hill:

1. Medical Transcriptionists play an important role in our nation’s healthcare delivery system. A recent study found that without the aid of the MT workforce, the accuracy of clinical documentation by physicians dropped from 98% to 85% using direct data entry.
2. Clinicians need flexibility with respect to the tools available to them for documenting patient encounters. In a study by the AC Group, Mark Anderson notes that it takes a clinician up to 9 times longer to document a patient encounter by direct key data into an EHR vs. narrative dictation.
3. A key benefit to EHR technology is its ability to capture discrete data which supports data mining and interoperability. R+B Sten-Tel and other transcription organizations have the capabilities to deliver discrete data today.

Peter said he found this experience to be not only productive, but a true learning experience and rewarding. To learn more about what the medical transcription industry is doing to address these issues please visit www.ahdionline.org and www.mtia.com.

