



Introducing the American College of Medical Scribe Specialists—Advocacy, Education and Innovative Solutions to Streamline Clinical Practices

We would like to introduce the American College of Medical Scribe Specialists (ACMSS)—a nonprofit membership organization founded in 2010—to prospective members and partners meeting CMS compliance, adopting national standards, and revolutionizing their healthcare practices.

Who We Are

Mission Statement: The ACMSS mission is to protect the integrity, quality, and efficacy of clinical documentation standards and training for Physicians, Clinicians, Payors, Certified Medical Scribe Specialists (CMSS), creating efficiencies for clinical care providers.

Our professional leadership team is committed to the belief that intensive, initial, standardized training, coupled with continual learning and evaluation are key to developing a successful Certified Medical Scribe Specialist. Without ACMSS certification and compliance, a physician would lack the proficiency needed in compliance with MACRA law and the skills, knowledge, and workflow adaptation and adoption needed those who make up the most successful CMS clinician-driven, patient-centered programs and Physician/CMSS Teams across the country.

ACMSS is committed to advancing a nationwide system of hybrid Certified Medical Scribe Specialist (CMSS) personnel who work across the specialties in Physician/CMSS teams throughout the healthcare system to build robust 21st century clinical care teams, relieve documentation burdens, and streamline clinical care and processes. Along with the board of ACMSS, Executive Director Kristin Hagen is leading this effort. She has been involved in both regional and national efforts as a technical expert to define and develop electronic health record specifications, and she is currently a member of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) “Clinician Voices” stakeholder participation ad hoc committee, in addition to a CMS stakeholder. Later this year, she will speak at the annual Medical Group Management Association Conference on the subject of how Physician/CMSS teams work together to improve patient care processes, at the point of care, in a value-based system.

What We Do

ACMSS is the nation’s only nonprofit professional society representing more than 20,000 Certified Medical Scribe Specialists in over 2000 medical institutions. ACMSS partners with academic institutions, non-profit partners, and medical scribe corporations to offer CMS approved certification pathways. ACMSS advances the needs of America’s 21st Century care system through certification, public advocacy, secure innovative systems design, individualized and customized consulting, tailored webinars, and continuing medical education for improved care coordination and patient-centric care toward wellness.

The scientific and educational strategic purposes behind ACMSS are multifold, and include the following:

- To enable meaningfully utilized clinical documentation in building 21st century clinical care, education, and healthcare system, enabling successful wellness and outcomes through evidence-based care and care models.
- To grant and issue government credentials and certification to qualified Certified Medical Scribe Specialists (CMSS) and provide recognition of special knowledge and skills in education that pertain to the field of medicine.
- To ensure CMS, government, payors, hospital administrators, practicing clinicians, and hospitals have a standardized process and training system in practice and furnish those individuals certification and credentials through the American College of Medical Scribe Specialists to effectively evolve research, education, and 21st century patient care.
- To establish and maintain benchmarks and high standards of training, testing, and certification in the various fields that Certified Medical Scribe Specialists practice within.
- To improve education in both pre-clinical and clinical arenas for Certified Medical Scribe Specialists.
- To recognize certification is necessary to maintain a standardized baseline training for all Certified Medical Scribe Specialists in meeting CMS accountability measures, pre-clinical education, and clinical training regimes to ensure patient care is not adversely affected.
- To optimize opportunities toward reportable health and wellness-based outcomes through meaningful Certified Medical Scribe Specialist clinical documentation encounters through the adoption and utilization of Electronic Health Records

Who We Serve

ACMSS provides academic institutions, practices, and physicians with assurance certifications pathways and products meet industry rigor in CMS compliance, attestations, and effective meaningful outcomes and utilization. ACMSS ensures physicians are able to meet, navigate, and stay aligned to national standards. Scribe students can be rigorously educated with both clinical and non-clinical education and training, according to the CMSS (Certified Medical Scribe Specialist) credential “crosswalk” from ACMSS that expands the scope and value of certified scribes throughout the healthcare enterprise.

Our organization is working nationwide to advocate for the rapidly growing Certified Medical Scribe Specialist industry and develop national standards. This includes providing guidance and comments to CMS and other federal regulators, and working in partnership with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) to keep the Medical Scribe Specialist national curriculum on the cutting edge of changes in our national healthcare system.

Certification Pathways and Packages

ACMSS offers several certification pathways for individuals and organizations.

Physician/Practice Pathway: Physicians and practices may also self-certify their staffs. ACMSS provides specialty certifications to all in General certifications, in addition to presenting specialty certifications in vascular medicine, dermatology, primary care, internal medicine and emergency medicine. ACMSS serves as a technical expert to physicians/mid-levels, through enablement of fully credentialed ‘CMSS’ professionals, adhering to federal regulations, MACRA law, guidance, and compliance.

Academic Institution Pathway: ACMSS formerly offered a program similar to the 1-Step pathway for Academic Partners whose medical scribe curriculum content conforms to standards approved by the Board of ACMSS. These standards are mirrored in core eligibility requirements, clinically and non-clinically, for accredited academic institutions across America, as set forth by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. CAAHEP is the current standard for accredited institutions and universities, and participates in creating a hybrid clinical/non-clinical degree programs.

Scribe Training Companies: Corporate Training Corporations the 1-Step Certification Pathway, a company must attest in an affidavit that its education programs meets all of the curriculum content requirements, and submit the curriculum to the ACMSS board for approval.

Individual Pathway: Those who work in clinical settings as medical scribes may sign an affidavit attesting that they have completed a minimum of 200 hours of unassisted clinician workload documentation, and then complete the Medical Scribe Certification Aptitude Test (MSCAT) administered through ACMSS. Certified Medical Assistants, Registered Medical Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, already with clinical hours, certified or licensed, may sit for the MSCAT with 50 hours unassisted physician-clinician documentation.

Retooling Pathway: Anyone with less than 200 hours of unassisted physician documentation is considered a Certified Medical Scribe Apprentice (CMSA). Once they have 200 hours they can attest or apply for eligibility through the CMSS Individual Pathway.

Consulting Services

ACMSS makes available its technical expertise in assisting our nation in successful adoption, utilization and compliance through the 'CMSS' credential, made available through MACRA.

ACMSS remains at the forefront of the 21st century healthcare revolution, enabling value-based, individualized medical care and treatment, which are focal points of MACRA and its Merit-Based Payment Incentive System (MIPS).

ACMSS advances the needs of the medical scribe industry through certification, public advocacy, secure innovative systems design, individualized and customized consulting, tailored webinars, and continuing scribe education for improved care coordination and patient-centric care toward wellness. ACMSS is available for public speaking engagements serving healthcare.

Contact ACMSS

The ACMSS certification program is the premier credential meeting CMS certification requirements through the Medical Scribe Certification & Aptitude Test (MSCAT). ACMSS is a stakeholder and works in government compliance with CMS meeting compliance measures, national standards and initiatives, as set forth through MACRA law and MIPS.

Please contact ACMSS directly at info@theacmss.org or (800) 987-3692 if you have any questions regarding ACMSS programs. We look forward to serving your needs.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kristin Hagen, CMSS, CPHIMS
ACMSS, Executive Director

ACMSS Executive Director Biography

Kristin Hagen, CMSS, CPHIMS, is Executive Director of the American College of Medical Scribe Specialists (ACMSS). She is as a specialist in clinical/nursing informatics, and passionate about improving healthcare and changing lives through integrative medicine. She has been involved in both regional and national efforts as a technical expert to define and develop electronic health record specifications.

Kristin provides a wide range of perspectives on health information technology, including those of a national healthcare patient advocate, a hands-on care provider, clinical/nursing informatics professional, and person with deep knowledge of evolving patient models of the U.S. healthcare system. Kristin is an original artist, and 20+ year veteran and 'original' airbag survivor (1994), who passionately pioneered through America's healthcare system to pinnacle wellness to Integrative Medical Institute of Orange, CA, Gary Ruelas, DO, PhD, utilizing her own testimonial and physician team back to wellness. Kristin is an upcoming author and speaker readying to share her testimony and 21st century care plans enabled through evidence-based 'Physician/CMSS Teams.' Her work with ACMSS includes improving curricula, credentialing and certification standards for premiere 'Physician/CMSS Teams' and Certified Medical Scribe Specialists across the country.

ACMSS represents more than 20,000 medical scribes in over 2,000 medical institutions. ACMSS partners with physicians, practices, academic institutions, non-profit partners, and medical scribe corporations to offer both academic-to-certification and employment-to-certification pathways. ACMSS advances the needs of the medical scribe industry through certification and credentialing, public advocacy, secure innovative systems design, individualized and customized consulting, tailored webinars, and continuing scribe education for improved care coordination toward wellness.

At ACMSS Kristin advocates for meaningful use of health information technology throughout the healthcare system She is committed to helping create a patient-safe, patient-centric healthcare system nationwide that is based on wellness and prevention. She also advocates nationally for a smooth transition to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and its Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Methods (APMs) for eligible clinicians.