

NCIS Coding Tips

October 2004

Hello

Hello to you all, my name is Leanne Daking and as many of you know I recently commenced as the Quality Manger for the NCIS.

I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and then a little about what I plan for the future in regards to data quality and the NCIS.

Profile - Leanne Daking

I commenced my employment with NCIS on Monday 30 August 2004.

Brief Work History

After graduating in from Victoria University of Technology in 1994 I spent several years working for the now defunct Vox Retail Group, which owned a national chain of retail stores including Billy Guyatts, Chandlers, Errol Stewarts and Stan Cash.

Several years before the group went into liquidation I enrolled at La Trobe University and completed my degree in Health Information Management in 1999. My first Health Information Manager (HIM) position, other than casual work throughout university, was with the Health Data Standards and Systems (HDSS) Unit within the Department of Human Services, Victoria.

HDSS is responsible for managing the admitted, emergency and elective datasets for the hospitals and day procedure centres throughout Victoria. As a casemix funded state the accuracy and quality of the Victorian datasets is crucial as it has a direct impact on the amount of money a public hospital receives from the state. So I have had a fair bit of experience with data edits, rejections and error reports.

Name your most unusual possession:

It was my Devon Rex cat – a breed of cat that some insist Spielberg modelled ET on, so not that attractive at first glance. Although Darcy was an affectionate and vocal cat that unfortunately suffered with diabetes and did not live to his full potential.



How do you cope with stress?

I have always held all my stress in my back. So now I indulge in monthly massages, try to confront and resolve the issue causing the stress and if that doesn't work shopping or playing with my niece – nothing like dealing with the demands and needs of a small child to give you a reality check.



Finish this sentence: Never attempt to ...

Tell a man he is not as sick as he thinks he is - it's a cold not pneumonia.....

Never attempt to take anything for granted. Make the most of every day, have goals and follow your dreams.



What talent do you wish you had?

Singing ... I would like to be able to hold a note or keep a tune.

Who would you most like to sit next to on a plane?

Keanu Reeves in the window seat (just so he would have to squeeze past me to get off) and Oprah on the aisle – maybe some of that talent, drive, good luck or money will head my way (and she may get Keanu to actually speak).



What would you never attempt?

Bungy jumping or anything involving snakes or spiders.

What risky activity have you most enjoyed?

White water rafting – I did it in Bali years ago and loved it. I would do it again in a second (providing the water is not too cold)



Family

I am fortunate to have a very close and supportive family. Most of them live in Melbourne and I see plenty of them. I have one niece in Melbourne and two nephews in Queensland, so I don't see them as much as I'd like to but I love spending time with them all.

Saturday has been the girls' day for many years, a time when my sister, mum and I get together to talk, shop, eat, watch a movie etc. When my niece was born the tradition continued – not sure what happens if a boy enters the mix in Melbourne....

Interests

I also really enjoy travelling although have not had much chance to indulge of late, spending time with family and friends, shopping, movies, music and reading a good book – of course nothing is done without a bottle of coke and a packet of mint slices, Tim-Tams, an aero bar, a large bowl of M & M's



What are my plans for the NCIS?

My first priority has been to recommence the review all closed cases on NCIS. Tony Chan and I are currently completing this review for March 2004 and reports will be distributed to all jurisdictions shortly.

To supplement the items that arise from these regular data reviews we will be implementing a range of initiatives to assist in supporting coder activities. These include:

- Newsletter – the recommencement of Coding Tips, initially to be distributed monthly the newsletters will provide the opportunity to discuss issues, provide feedback and act as a communication tool.
- Training Sessions – we are currently in the process of arranging some in person coder training sessions. These sessions will allow interaction between coronial clerks and NCIS quality management, help to establish a coding network as an additional reference tool, focus on how to code particularly difficult scenarios, debate areas that are identified through the reviews and provide general refresher training.
- Coding Manual – the NCIS coding manual will be updated and provide more complex scenarios for reference.
- Teleconferences – I hope to establish regular teleconferences with coders from all jurisdictions to discuss issues, concerns and complicated scenarios. The first call should take place before the end of October or early November 2004.

Other work that will be undertaken in the future includes:

- Review of the Product-related data definition, data entry and data usage. There is understandably some inconsistency as to how these data fields are coded and what the field means. I will be surveying the coders, users, and external parties to determine a more appropriate definition and specification for these data fields.

Thanks and I look forward to meeting you all in person over the coming months, although we should be talking in a teleconference before then.



On A Lighter Note – Would you buy a car built by a computer company?

At a computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated 'If GM (General Motors) had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 miles to the gallon.' (Obviously an American expo)

Recently, General Motors allegedly addressed this comment by releasing the statement 'Yes, but would you want your car to crash twice a day?'

So what would a car built by a computer company be like?

- Every time they repainted the lines on the road you would have to buy a new car.
- Occasionally your car would die on the road for no reason and you would just accept this, restart and drive-on.
- Occasionally executing a maneuver would cause your car to stop and fail and you would have to re-install the engine but for some strange reason you would accept this too.



- You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought 'Car95' or 'CarNT'. But then you would have to buy more seats.
- Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times faster, and twice as easy to drive but would only run on five percent of the roads.
- The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower.
- The oil, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single 'general car default' warning light.
- New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.
- The airbag system would say 'Are You Sure?' before going off.
- If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened.

