

## *National Medical Transcriptionist Week May 15-21*

*By Heather Dirks, HIM Assistant*

In May 1985 the House Joint Resolution declared National Medical Transcriptionist Week which was signed by President Ronald Reagan. Medical Transcriptionists have been a recognized profession since 1978 by the AHDI (Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity). Medical Transcription has been linked back to ancient cave writings to record medical or health information. The early forms of transcription were medical stenographers who took notes in short hand for providers.

Over the years technology has changed from the handwritten medical record to the

typed medical record. The most common types of equipment for a transcriptionist are a transcriber (plays audio recording), ear phones, and a foot pedal. Many transcriptionists work from home or on site and can work for medical facilities all over the world. With the advancement of technology, more and more providers have begun to utilize speech recognition software or type their own chart notes directly into the Electronic Health Record (EMR). Happy Medical Transcriptionist Week!

*Prior Hospital Happenings available at <http://www.fcphd.org/news.html>*

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