

Hello Everyone,

I just returned from representing you all at the Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference held during last weekend. And there is some exciting stuff to share! It is such a great group and they are busy at AHIMA finding ways to improve our profession and the notoriety that surrounds us standing as data specialists and information gurus! No one can tell the story of data and information like the health information professional and they know it. What we have to remember is that no matter how golden a road that AHIMA paves for us- it is up to each and every one of us to keep and sharpen our skills, continuously.

There was a lot of discussion about the AHIMA Bylaws and why they are changing. It really boils down to the fact that the AHIMA Bylaws have not been in sync with the State of Illinois General Laws for some time. It is time that each Component State Association review its own Bylaws and make any necessary changes

There were many States' Component State Associations that were recognized for awesome work accomplished. One State received two Awards- and the Award for having the highest percentage of voting members has been discontinued- We would have won that one, but we can see that our work needs to go beyond "just showing up". We need to provide, as an Association to you, our Members and to those outside of our realm, i.e. physician practice, dentists, etc... continuous training on the topics on which we are already so well versed. Our Board will meet sometime over the next two to three weeks,

So please stay tuned! -Marlene, President, RIHIMA

Some thoughts from two other Leadership Conferences that took place over the past few weeks:

AHA and the HFMA: (that although may not speak to Health Informatics, somehow rings true and is something we should consider):

From the American Hospital Association ~

Physicians should be friends and partners: The idea is that hospital executives need to find common ground to work with doctors and their practice groups to integrate, which of course is the magic word these days.

Insidious intimidation is a problem: This is when co-workers show "reluctance or refusal to answer questions, return phone calls, or answer pages, [use] condescending language or voice intonation, are impatient with questions and manifest other behaviors that are damaging to team effectiveness and compromise patient safety,".



Be less like cowboys, more like pit crews: Atul Gawande, MD, a Brigham and Women's Hospital surgeon, and now well-known healthcare writer's latest catchy phrase, "Cowboys to Pit Crews," describes the dramatic change he sees necessary for healthcare to be more effective. Doctors, he argues, must behave like team players rather than individuals. In the 1970s, Gawande said, only 2.5 full-time equivalent providers were necessary to take care of a sick patient. Today it is 15.

From the Healthcare Financial Management Association ~

It was all about Value and how cost and value are intertwined. It was about how clinicians and finance can work together to increase value of the organization and noted that cost savings need to come from clinical improvements.

They talked about the development and reporting of meaningful and measurable outcomes. Those areas that add cost without creating value will be cut. How are meaningful and measurable outcomes derived? Through medical data that is collected and the health information that is reported to show the value that is added.

AHIMA has more than 16,000 fans and followers across its official AHIMA Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter pages. Make sure you're connected too! Leverage this great opportunity to network and share ideas, and don't forget to keep checking the AHIMA COP (Community of Practice)

Health Information Management HOT TOPICS forum will begin in Rhode Island!

We are still planning to start this in the Fall! Several Members from RIHIMA, at our Business Meeting that was held at Mohegan Sun, signed up to participate in this group that will meet Quarterly. More information is to follow. If you did not sign up yet, but would like to, it's not too late! Please provide your e-mail address to Me or to Candie, our central office coordinator.

If You have a Spare Minute, Check out:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9OJb5v41JM&feature=fvsr>

ICD-10, Yeah! There's a code for it! 😊

CDI Certification through AHIMA:

In response to industry demand, the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) is developing a new credential focused on CDI professionals. The new credential, to be launched this fall, is grounded in CCHIIM's commitment to high certification standards and links directly to AHIMA's mission of "Quality Healthcare through Quality Information." At the heart of AHIMA's mission and vision is documentation that supports quality health information. AHIMA's CDI certification will confirm the commitment of AHIMA to globally improve and maintain quality information for those involved in healthcare and support the integrity of the patient's health record. The certification will distinguish those professionals serving as clinical documentation specialists as knowledgeable and competent to provide guidance relative to clinical documentation in the patient's health record, thus promoting the HIM profession overall.

Health Information Technology Competency Exams: AHIMA's Stand on this:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AHIMA TOUTS HIT PRO EXAMS AS INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

Designed to increase eligible hires for electronic health record transition

CHICAGO— AHIMA President Bonnie Cassidy today informed members of the 83-year-old professional society representing health information management (HIM) professionals that the organization is working proactively to grow jobs for members while helping to fill the estimated 50,000 new positions that will be needed to implement the U.S. health system's transition to electronic health records (EHR). AHIMA collaborated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) to develop the HIT Pro competency exams announced last week that will, for a limited time, be offered free to qualified U.S. citizens.

"We are doing everything we can to increase job opportunities for members as we recruit more qualified workers into the HIM profession," Cassidy said. "By collaborating with ONC on the front end to develop curricula and testing opportunities, we go a long way to satisfying the growing demand over the next ten years." The ONC estimates that hospitals and physician practices will need an additional 50,000 HIT workers during the next five years to satisfy EHR "Meaningful Use" criteria. Six new Health Information Technology Professional™ (HIT Pro) competency exams were released this month to help address this need. The HIT Pro exams assess basic competency of individuals seeking to demonstrate their proficiency in certain health IT workforce roles integral to the implementation and management of electronic health information.

HIT Pro is a component of the Workforce Development program of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009. The exams are being funded by an ONC grant and developed through a partnership between Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), AHIMA, and Pearson VUE. Each of the six

exams pertains to a specific HIT workforce role instrumental in the process of achieving meaningful use of EHR systems.

The purpose of the Workforce Development program is to ensure there are enough qualified workers to support the healthcare industry and efforts to implement EHRs and health information exchanges (HIE). All six of the HIT Pro competency exams launched last week and corresponding classes are now available for interested professionals and job seekers looking to change into growth careers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics and numerous career staffing services identify health information as one of the fastest growing job classifications over the next ten years. A broad-based effort by the White House, HHS and the HIM profession is currently underway to communicate the availability and value of the exams. More information about HIT Pro is available at www.hitproexams.org.

About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Represents more than 61,000 specially educated Health Information Management professionals in the United States and around the world, the American Health Information Management Association is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. www.ahima.org

Member Spotlight - Marlene Haglund-Hatch

As a young girl in Junior high school at age 13, I was in my school library researching occupations. I came upon a book and I don't remember who it was published by but it described the health information field. I wanted to make a difference in the healthcare field without going the route of bedpans and the like. I set out to attend a college which offered this program of study and in my junior year took the train ride to Johns Hopkins during my Junior year of college to review their internship program. There were ten of us in the program at my college. I had begun working in medical records during the summers home from college and I was determined, even more so when I was with 5 minutes or so able to present to Mr. Hynes the patient's Emergency Room visit report that he had so desperately needed. When Johns Hopkins intermittently changed their program for a short time, I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Biology and accepted a job immediately upon graduation working at Kent. I was working in coding and the hospital began looking for someone to start a cancer registry. I received the promotion, but in the meantime had started the health information program at Northeastern University. So I was working full-time and going to school three nights a week to Boston. The cancer program at Kent was accredited within two years and I accepted a Director position in Maine so I could live near my new nieces and sister. After four years of upgrading the systems there, implementing DRGS and computers for transcription, etc... it was time to return to the ocean of Rhode Island that I missed. I accepted a cancer registry job at Miriam and went on to serve for 8 years as a Consultant to the Commission on Cancer after their cancer program was approved. I worked at the Miriam and Lifespan in a number of different levels spanning Miriam, Rhode Island and Bradley Hospitals over 14 years during which I was married and divorced. I have transitioned into Long Term Care Health Information where I now manage IT and health information as well as HIPAA Privacy Officer. Our HIPAA Privacy staff Education Program received accolades from the National **Leading Age** Association, and was spotlight in the March/April Issue of **Nursing Homes Magazine**. I live in East Greenwich with my 13 year old daughter and 85 year old Mom.

SAVE the Dates!

Coding Roundtable Thursday, August 11, @ Kent
Fall RIHIMA Conference- September 16: 8 AM to Noon
Annual AHIMA Conference Oct = Salt Lake City

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