

News & Views

July 2006



President's Message

Dear NHIMA Members:

Wow! It seems just like yesterday when I wrote my first President's message—and here I am at the end of my year. Where has the time gone I wonder? As I sat down to contemplate this last year, it became very apparent to me on how honored I have been to experience all the opportunities NHIMA provided. I have been on the Board for four years now and have served all four as a delegate for the AHIMA House of Delegates at the various locations for the AHIMA National Conventions, have attended three Summer Team Talks/Leadership Conferences, and one Winter Team Talks. I wish all of you could experience even just a part of what I have and you would see why I have been excited, and continue to be excited, when it comes to the future of HIM professionals.



I would like to update you on the three issues the House of Delegates addressed in June. As mentioned at our Annual Meeting in Kearney and in the eBlast I sent you in May, the big topic of discussion and debate continues to be the "Main Motion on Inclusive Membership." The Illinois delegation made a motion to postpone the voting on the bylaws amendment addressing inclusive membership and so the Delegates voted on the postponement and it was approved with all 52 CSA's voting on the issue. 71.8% voted in favor of the postponement and 28.2% in the negative. This means that the bylaws amendment on Inclusive Membership will be voted on at the House of Delegates in October before the 2006 National Convention. Be assured that you will have an opportunity for more discussion at the Fall Conference in Omaha in order that the four Nebraska delegates will have your input before they vote. I have a feeling there will be a "lively" discussion during the HOD meeting. It also would not be surprising if an "amendment for the amendment" is proposed by at least one CSA. Only time will tell.

The other two Main Motions on proposed bylaw amendments addressing Corporate Membership and Ethics were approved 90.5% and 98.9% respectively.

Finally, I once again want to encourage all of you to attend the AHIMA National Convention in Denver this October. We have nine NHIMA volunteers that will be helping at the Convention in some capacity so you may see a familiar face assisting at the individual sessions, etc.

In closing, I would like to say again thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you this past year as your President. I want to express a heartfelt thanks to the Board members and the Committee Chairs for their hard work. Also, this past year would have been almost impossible without the help of Kim Johnson at Central Office. She has been invaluable in her knowledge of NHIMA, both past and present, and was a very important resource multiple times when I had questions and memory lapses. I appreciated you all!

Charlene K. Johnson, RHT

2005-2006 NHIMA President

Update from the NHIMA Coding Roundtable

The NHIMA Coding Roundtable is getting back on track and we need you to help us build some steam. The first stop for the Roundtable is a discussion thread on the Geographic Nebraska Community of Practice (CoP). This is a great way to connect NHIMA membership throughout the state. The Roundtable Committee has already posted a coding issue to start discussion. Visit www.ahima.org under Members Only, Communities of Practice. Enter your AHIMA ID number, password, and scroll down to the Geographic Nebraska. Look for the discussion thread labeled – Coding Roundtable. Post your thoughts on the issue or start your own thread.

The next major stop for the Roundtable is to host a coding conference using the Nebraska Telehealth network later this year. We have been brainstorming various topics for this conference. We are looking forward to putting this together and hope for good utilization of the Telehealth resource.

Member participation will be the key to the success of the Coding Roundtable. We are open to any ideas that membership may have for the Roundtable. Please post your suggestions on the Geographic Nebraska CoP or email them to Theresa Rihaneck at trihaneck@nebraskamed.com. If anyone has the desire to write an article for the News & Views on a coding related topic, please let Theresa know. We are excited to hear from our membership. Let us know how we can make the Roundtable work best for you.

Note from Nancy

We go through many changes as we transition from Point A to Point B in our lives. From the first job to the last we change priorities, further our education, take on new challenges. The AHIMA resolution regarding Lifelong Learning is truly one of the issues that our national association has promoted that I think we can all relate to.

After I received my bachelor's degree, I started out working for twelve years at a financial institution before I decided that I wanted more from my career than counting money and responding to people's inquiries about their bank balance! I switched gears and completed the AHIMA Correspondence Course to become a RHIT. I took advantage of the "bridge" and passed the exam for my RHIA. I have been in my current position for almost 13 years now and I'm feeling that "itch" to do something else.

Some people call this mid-life crisis. I guess I look at it as seeking professional and personal growth - a willingness to take on new challenges and learn new things. Where can I go from here? What sounds interesting that I haven't tried yet? How

will I keep from getting bored now that my children are out of the house?

As my tenure on the NHIMA Board comes to a close, I'd just like to encourage all of you to embrace the Lifelong Learning strategy. I don't mean that you have to go back to school, but just pick up a book or take up a new hobby or go on vacation!! Every day can present a learning opportunity.

I have truly enjoyed serving on the Board these past three years. Besides the travel opportunities, I've had the pleasure of really feeling a part of an organization that seeks to keep us informed, educated, and at the forefront of this new technologically based environment in which we work.

To my fellow Board members, thank you for working with me to accomplish our strategic goals. I will miss the collaboration and friendship.

Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA - Past-President

The NHIMA Membership List is no longer printed in News & Views. However, the NHIMA membership list can be emailed to NHIMA members. Request your list by emailing the NHIMA Central Office at kim@consulthi.com.

Legislative Update – New Action Alert from the AHIMA Advocacy Assistant

By Anne Skinner, RHIA – Legislative Chair

HISPC Letter to Governors

A unique opportunity is available to participate in a national health information privacy and security initiative at the state government level.

In October 2005, a contract was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a survey effort known as the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC). The effort will be led by the research firm Research Triangle Institute - International (RTI) in conjunction with the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices. The contract will provide funding for the establishment of up to 40 individual state projects designed to evaluate the perceived barriers in existing privacy and security laws and business practices that pose interoperability challenges and hinder the free flow of electronic health information. Each state and territory will be able to compete for funding to examine how privacy and security laws and business practices within the state or territory impact the ability to exchange interoperable electronic health information (e.g., electronic medical records, e-prescribing, and e-billing). For more information visit the Advocacy Assistant at www.AHIMA.org.

Additional legislative activity currently in progress is as follows:
Congress:

- S.2170 Global Pathogen Surveillance Act
- S.1952 The Critical Access to Health Information Technology Act of 2005
- S.1418 The Wired for Health Care Quality Act
- S.1356 The Medicare Value Purchasing Act of 2005
- S.1355 The Better Healthcare Through Information Technology Act
- S.1262 The Health Technology to Enhance Quality Act of 2005 or the Health TEQ Act
- S.1227 The Health Information Technology Act of 2005
- S.1223 Information Technology for Health Care Quality Act
- S.810 Senator Clinton Introduces Outsourcing Privacy Bill
- S.544 Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005
- S.473 S. 473, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act

- S.473 Support S 473, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act
- S.306 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
- S.16 Affordable Health Care Act
- H.R.4642 Wired for Health Care Quality Act
- H.R.4641 The ADOPT HIT Act
- H.R.4157 Rep. Johnson Introduces HIT Legislation Providing for ICD-10 by 2009
- H.R.4127 Data Accountability and Trust Act
- H.R.3617 Medicare Value-Based Purchasing for Physicians Services Act
- H.R.3607 The Granting Access to Innovation in America Act
- H.R.2234 21st Century Health Information Act
- H.R.1653 Rep. Markey Introduces Outsourcing Privacy Bill.
- H.R.1227 HR 1227, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
- H.R.747 National Health Information Infrastructure Incentives Act
- H.R.215 Allied Health Professions Reinvestment Act

Nebraska Immunization Registry Coalition (NE-IRC) Update

The Coalition met on March 3, 2006 at the Douglas County Health Department for an overview and demonstration of the ImmunetNebraska system. Anne Skinner presented information comparing national immunization registry best practices and the current system being used by the public health department. A follow-up discussion was held to determine what the next steps would be dependent upon the outcome of LB949, the bill driving the immunization registry movement in Nebraska.

LB949 Update: Excerpt from letter to Linda Ohri from Senator Jensen's Office: "LB 949 was not passed by the Legislature and was indefinitely postponed at the end of the session. LR 406 was introduced by Senator Jensen, and contains much the same language and intent as the bill. I believe Senator Jensen's intention is to proceed with the resolution in the same manner as he would have proceeded with the bill (i.e., working with HHS Regulation and Licensure and the task force to formulate a plan for a statewide immunization registry, in anticipation of further

Legislative Update continued....

enabling legislation in 2007). Limited funds for the study are available to the Health and Human Services Committee through the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. Further details will be developed over the next couple of months. I hope this is helpful. We will keep you informed as Senator Jensen provides further direction,

through the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. Further details will be developed over the next couple of months."

This is very good news for the Coalition and I will be meeting with Linda Ohri in the next few weeks to determine our next plan of action.

**NHIMA Fall Conference - September 21 & 22, 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel - Omaha, NE**

NHIMA Policy & Procedure Revisions

The following policies were revised at the June 2, 2006 Board of Directors meeting – no major changes, just revisions to reflect current practices.

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|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1.10 | President | 3.10 | Annual Report Format |
| 1.20 | President-Elect | 3.10a | Format for Annual Report |
| 1.30 | Past-President | 3.10b | Past Presidents & Distinguished Members |
| 1.40 | Director | 3.10c | Annual Report Request Form |
| 2.70b | Candidate's Resume | 3.12 | Annual NHIMA Business Meeting Script |

All policies are available for review in the Nebraska Geographic Community of Practice, Resources section (click "View All" and then choose to view the NHIMA Policy Manual).

Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Alyssa Breci
Cindy Carlson
Lacy Choate
Brittany Coryell
Dael Cron
Mary Escamilla

Jeri Fiscus
Angela Hausman
Robert Heydon
Debra Kallenbach
Michelle Linbo

Colynne Manning
Mary McHose, CCS
Kelli McKelvey, RHIT
Wanda Ortmeier
Lindsey Reyna
Terri Staats

Member News



Lori Richter is proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Faith Lin Richter. She was born on Wednesday, June 7, 2006

at 11PM. She weighed 7 lbs 14 oz.



Ellen Jacobs is proud to announce the birth of her granddaughter, Rosaline Victoria on

July 1. Parents are Daniel and Karen Jacobs of Bozeman, MT. She weighed 7 lb 0.8 oz and was 21 inches long.



Cynthia Sestak, RHIA, assistant director at the VA Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care

System – Grand Island, has earned her master of arts in management degree from Doane College.

NHIMA SPOTLIGHT – Saint Francis Medical Center – Grand Island, NE

The Saint Francis Medical Center Health Information Department is proud to be the first department featured in the “NHIMA Spotlight”!

Saint Francis Medical Center is licensed for 189 beds (acute care, skilled nursing unit, and alcohol and drug treatment) with a medical staff of 106 physicians. In fiscal year 2005, Saint Francis Medical Center provided care to 8,824 inpatient admissions and 183,674 outpatient/clinic visits. Saint Francis Medical Center is currently in the process of a master facility project which includes the addition of a nine-story patient tower and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2007. This building project required the Health Information Department to relocate and the department will relocate one more time before the entire master facility project is completed.



The Health Information Department employs 57 FTE's and is organized into four cost centers—record processing, utilization management, medical transcription, and clinical data (coding). The Health Information Department has staff located at our two campuses—Saint Francis Medical Center and Memorial Health Center.

The staff within each of our cost centers are involved in various projects and initiatives:

- The record processing staff are currently in the process of completing the implementation of an automated system to collect and report medical record review data for various performance improvement initiatives. In July 2006 we will kick off the implementation of our electronic medical record (EMR) and voice recognition project which is scheduled to be implemented over the next three years. The cancer registry, which is accredited by the American College of Surgeons, is also maintained in the Health Information Department and received commendation in the areas of data collection and staff education during our last survey.
- In the next year, the utilization management staff will be implementing a new utilization management criteria system as well as new wireless devices. The utilization management staff will also be involved in further staff and physician education related to our clinical documentation improvement program.
- The Medical Transcription staff recently completed an upgrade to our digital dictation system to further enhance our off-site transcription program. The transcription staff will also be very involved in the EMR implementation, especially in the final project phase related to voice recognition.
- The clinical data staff are designated as either inpatient or outpatient based on their area of expertise. The outpatient staff is currently in the process of implementing a process to assign/charge the facility E&M level for services provided in the emergency department (ED) and to address identified documentation deficiencies on a concurrent basis with ED staff. The outpatient coding staff is currently responsible for assigning all ICD-9-CM and CPT-4 codes on all outpatient encounters, assigning modifiers, APC grouping, resolving OCE edits, verifying medical necessity based on final code assignment, emergency department facility procedure coding/charging, and emergency physician and oncology physician professional fee E&M level and procedure coding/charging.

The inpatient coding staff work closely with the utilization management staff on our clinical documentation improvement program which focuses on documentation and coding based on patient severity. The program utilizes a concurrent review of medical record documentation by a “documentation specialist” team consisting of an inpatient coder and a utilization review nurse who are assigned to specific patient care areas. In 2004, the clinical documentation improvement program was recognized by the Nebraska Hospital Association with the “Quest for Excellence Award”.

Even though the functions within the Health Information Department have become so diverse and specialized, the staff in the four cost centers recognize the need to work as a team in order to achieve departmental and organizational goals. In order to foster this sense of team, the department has several different initiatives in place to facilitate teamwork throughout the department:

- In addition to monthly meetings within each cost center, the staff in the four cost centers also meet on a quarterly basis as an entire department. In addition to the usual meeting agenda topics, these meetings include a fun ice-breaker activity to encourage staff to get to know each other on a personal basis as well as education on a topic pertinent to all cost centers (personal development, safety, privacy, etc.).
- Given the increasing challenges to improve performance outcomes, a monthly departmental dashboard report is used to monitor key indicators for each cost center in the areas of work volume, quality, customer service, budget, productivity, people, and growth/projects. A daily report is also sent out to the Health Information Department staff to monitor key work flows through the department and identify potential process issues before they become problematic.
- To monitor departmental performance, a departmental Health Information Performance Improvement Team (includes staff and management representatives from each of the cost centers) meets on a monthly basis. This team is responsible for reviewing the departmental dashboard report and addressing any identified process issues.
- To celebrate our successes, each quarter a cost center within the Health Information Department is recognized through our TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) recognition program for achieving their outcome goals. Each fiscal year, each cost center selects specific indicators and outcome goals they plan on achieving during the next year. Each indicator is weighted and points are assigned based on the cost center's performance for the quarter. Each quarter, the cost center with the highest point total receives the traveling trophy and the staff within the cost center is treated to lunch.

The Health Information Department appreciates this opportunity to share some of the activities and accomplishments within our department. Like other Nebraska health information management professionals, we look forward to even more changes and challenges in the future!

NHIMA Member Recognition

Did you know that NHIMA member **Wanda Cantrell, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P**, was quoted multiple times in a recent article published on-line by JustCoding.com? The article, entitled *Take Note of Your Scribes: Ensure Clear-cut Guidelines for Your Office, Facility*, addressed the use of scribes as a solution to enhancing documentation and increasing physician efficiency. Wanda is a coding compliance manager for CHAN Healthcare Auditors and her expertise on documentation issues is widely recognized. Great job, Wanda!

Meet Your New Board Members

Your 2006-2007 NHIMA Board of Directors....



Stephanie Taylor, Kari Eskens, Donna Keller, Ranae Hug,
Monica Seeland and Charlene Tilson (Angie Gage not pictured)

Just for fun....we asked our new board members to share a little bit about themselves...

	Kari Eskens, President-Elect	Angie Gage, Secretary	Monica – First Year Director
Tell us a little bit about your family.	I have been married to my husband Mike for almost 11 years. We have 3 children, Olivia-9, Andrew-6, and Adelyn-2.	I have been married to my husband Brian for 12 years. We have three daughters. Siera (my 'bonus' daughter) is 18 and will be a freshman at UNL this fall. Maddie is 9 and will be in the 4th grade this fall. Camry is 2 and loves The Wiggles, Dora, and our two dogs: Lizzie and Duke.	I have two children - Amanda, who will be a senior at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, majoring in early childhood development; and Jeremy who will be a freshman at Hastings College.
What and where was your first job as an HIM professional?	My first job as an HIM professional was the Director of Medical Records at Providence Medical Center in Wayne, NE. I started a week and a half after graduation. Since it is a small hospital, it was a wonderful place to learn about the HIM profession, as I was involved in many aspects of the medical center.	Hastings Family Practice as an Insurance Clerk.	My first job was as the assistant director of health information (medical records at the time) at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center. Responsibilities included chart analysis for completion, supervision of the transcription process, and facility wide quality improvement.
What is on your mouse pad?	Nothing, it's a black circle with a built in wrist rest.	I don't have one.	I don't use a mouse pad.
What book are you currently reading?	As I have an active young family, I don't have much time for leisure reading. Lately my books of choice have been "The Three Little Pigs", "Walter the Farting Dog", and anything Dora.	The DaVinci Code for leisure and for school: Digital Medicine: Implication for Healthcare Leaders.	Wicked, the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West
Favorite food?	Mexican	Mexican- chips and salsa at LaPaz in Lincoln.	Medium rare steak, cheesecake and anything chocolate.
Name the person you'd most like to meet.	My husband's father, he passed away 2 years before I met my husband.	Oprah. I would also like to meet some ancestors who came to the US from Germany and Ireland.	It's hard to narrow it down to just one - Paul McCartney, George Washington, some of the first settlers in Nebraska
Favorite movie?	The Shawshank Redemption	Pretty Woman and Dirty Dancing	Gone With the Wind
First car?	1976 orange Chevy Pickup.	1984 Dodge Omni	1967 Buick Special
Storms - scary or cool?	Cool	Cool	Some of both
Chocolate or vanilla?	Chocolate	Chocolate	Chocolate
Describe your favorite shoes.	I love shoes! Right now my favorite pair is a brown strappy wedge heel sandal. I try to wear them whenever I can.	Way too many to choose from. I have different "favorites" depending on the activity.	A pair of white stilettos with little bows on the heels. I still love those shoes!

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- Legislative Committee Anne Skinner
- NHIMA Guide for Privacy, Retention &
Disclosure of Health Information Pam Koch
- Nominating Committee Peggy Wolff
- Archivist..... Retha Hudkins
- Spring 2007 Conference
Committee..... Ranae Race
- Fall 2006 Conference
Committee..... Mary Meysenburg
- Coding Roundtable Theresa Rihanek
- Professional Promotions Alison Harms

2006-2007 Corporate Member



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