

October 2014

President's Message

Lifetime Change, my thoughts for the month. Maybe it is the weather that is changing, from summer to fall. Or my feelings changing about Halloween candy. (I remember I used to look forward to eating the “whole” bag of candy I collected in the neighborhood and now I worry about how many calories are in the delicious Snickers” fun-size” candy bar I’m about to eat!) Or perhaps it is going from loving to be outside, regardless of the weather, and constantly running, roller skating, riding my bike from morning until the street lights came on to now staying on the treadmill just long enough to burn off enough calories to pay for the small piece of cake I ate. Life as I once knew it has changed. Along with life, boy have I changed. I have changed from being a “very picky eater” and running from morning until night, to someone who can eat almost anything and enjoy it to a person who dreads getting to the gym or outside to “Exercise”! Some of the changes are good; however, some of the changes I could do without.

I could do without the calorie count of everything I love posted on every package and on every menu that I look at. I could do without someone telling how many steps I should walk each and every day. I could do without somebody telling me how much I should weigh and what my blood pressure should be – and, by the way, they keep lowering the bar for these two items. I could do without seeing gorgeous, thin women in every ad, TV program, every magazine, everywhere. I could do without having to wear a “helmet” while I ride my bike. I could do without having to make sure that the food I buy was allowed to roam free and was not given antibiotics. I could do without knowing that my cellphone can pop popcorn with the waves it generates, which might be dangerous to my health. I could do without the government telling me when I can and cannot pray or say Merry Christmas.

Overall, we need to examine all change, and understand change is inevitable. Dig into it and investigate. See what the change actually does for us vs. what someone tells us it will do for us. The world can’t be what it was 50 years ago. Some changes have been for the better and some not, but when you are faced with change you might think, how can this new idea or new technology help me? We all might be surprised if we allow ourselves to learn.

Shirley Carmichael, NHIMA President

Get Involved in AHIMA's ICD-10 Grassroots Advocacy Campaign

During the AHIMA Leadership Symposium in Chicago this July, AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA, announced the kick-off of AHIMA's ICD-10 Grassroots Advocacy Campaign—a campaign to ensure a firm ICD-10 implementation date of October 1, 2015. A key part of this campaign will be the collective advocacy efforts of AHIMA's Component State Associations (CSAs). These efforts will fall into two main categories: congressional outreach and physician outreach.

You can help your CSA support this campaign by participating in the following activities:

- Use the [AHIMA Advocacy Assistant](#) for assistance in contacting your elected officials. Please take action and submit the three action items located on the Advocacy Assistant. They are quick, easy to do, and show your support for ICD-10.
- Your CSA leaders are looking for members to meet with [US Representatives](#) and [US Senators](#) in your home state. If you are interested, please contact **Monica Seeland** via email at mseeland@nebraskahospitals.org.
- Attend an [advocacy training webinar](#) for guidance, resources, and tips for meeting with legislators.
- If you have contact information for your state medical society or physician organizations within your state, please share it with **Monica Seeland** via email at mseeland@nebraskahospitals.org.
- Use social media to keep the momentum going. Tweet using the hashtag #ICD10Matters.

Ensuring the successful implementation of ICD-10 will require participation in this grassroots advocacy campaign by all 52 AHIMA CSAs. You can learn more about the campaign on Engage, in the [State Leaders and House of Delegates community](#). Thank you for your support.

2014 AHIMA Convention Highlights

The General Assembly held on Monday, September 29th was held in the San Diego Convention Center. Speakers for the Monday General Assembly included Nate Harding, CEO and CO-Founder of Ekso Bionics, Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, and Eric Topol, MD, Cardiologist and Chief Academic Officer, Scripps Health.

Mr. Harding's session titled, "Leading the Way: Life Changing Innovation" featured a live demonstration of Ekso Bionic's robotic exoskeleton technology showing the benefit of technology merging with healthcare. Ekso Bionics designs, develops, and commercializes exoskeletons, or wearable robots, which have a variety of applications in the medical, military, industrial, and consumer markets. Exoskeletons are ready-to-wear, battery-powered robots that are strapped over the user's clothing, enabling individuals to achieve mobility, strength, and endurance not otherwise possible. Ekso Bionics' lead product, EksoTM, is a wearable bionic suit that enables individuals with any amount of lower extremity weakness to stand up and walk over ground. Ekso is forging a new frontier in rehabilitation for people living with the consequences of stroke, spinal cord injury and other neurological conditions affecting gait.

As the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Dr. DeSalvo is leading the nation's charge to promote and adopt health information technology (HIT) that is meaningful. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is the principal federal entity charged with coordination of nationwide efforts to implement and use the most advanced health information technology and the electronic exchange of health information. Dr. DeSalvo emphasized the need for interoperability between Electronic Health Records and the need for patients to access their medical records more easily and effectively. With better interoperability and more efficiency in the application and uses of electronic medical records, we should achieve better care and lower costs in healthcare.

Dr. Topol highlighted the advances in medical technology happening everywhere. He discussed how they will transform healthcare and the business of healthcare. His emphasis is that digital healthcare or digital medicine will drive the future of medicine through the Internet of things. He describes the Internet of Things is the interconnection of uniquely identifiable embedded computing devices within the existing Internet infrastructure. "Things", in the Internet of Things, can refer to a wide variety of devices such as heart monitoring implants, biochip transponders, automobiles with built-in sensors, or field operation devices that assist fire-fighters in search and rescue. We can see the current application of the Internet of Things with smart home security technologies that can be controlled through smart phone devices and washer/dryers that utilize Wi-Fi for remote monitoring.

By Sally Roland, MS, RHIA, CCS, CPC

NHIMA Contact Information:

[Board Members](#) - [Committee/TF Chairs](#)

Dates to Remember:

April 22-24, 2015 - NHIMA Annual Convention, Kearney, NE

Let's try again...

ICD-10-CM/PCS coder education

TENTATIVE dates and locations have been set for ICD-10-CM/PCS coder education:

May 13-15, 2015 – Hampton Inn Conference Center, Scottsbluff

June 8-10, 2015 – Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln

June 24-26, 2015 – Holiday Inn Express, Norfolk

July 8-10, 2015 – Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Kearney

Stay tuned for further updates from NHA and NHIMA.