News & Views

September 2005

NHIMA
NEBRASKA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of
AHIMA
American Health Information
Management Association®

President's Message

Dear NHIMA Members:

The migration of healthcare organizations to the electronic health record will affect the entire HIM profession. The transformation from paper-based to electronic health records will affect every HIM function currently used with the today's paper record. HIM professionals will need to rethink HIM processes that will lead to either re-engineering or elimination entirely. So what does that mean for you, an HIM professional? It means this daunting task must be approached with a plan. A plan that should consist of three stages:

- The current paper-based health record,
- The transition to a hybrid system with both paper and electronic health records, and
- The final stage of the electronic health record.

In order to accomplish this, our HIM professionals will need to continuously upgrade their skills and expertise to keep pace and be successful in the new e-HIM environment. That is why one on the main strategies in our NHIMA Strategic Plan for 2005-2006 addresses e-HIM. We want to "encourage leadership and practice innovation in the transition to the EHR and e-HIM" for our NHIMA members. The first step of the action plan included a membership survey that would enable the NHIMA Board to make certain educational opportunities are available to address your needs. We had 91 respondents out of the 422 NHIMA members—or a 22% response—to this survey. Analysis of the survey results will be reviewed and discussed at the November Board meeting. If you did not return this survey and would like to give us your input, feel free to contact any Board member. The current Board is listed on the www.nhima.org Website under "Contacts." Only by helping the HIM professional in this quest, will our State's healthcare organizations be able to envision the virtual HIM department and help ready them for the most significant transition in HIM history.

Meanwhile to start this journey, you can access a number of standards on e-HIM Practice Guidelines at www.ahima.org/infocenter.ehim/. I see this journey as an exciting and challenging venture that we should embrace whole-heartedly. We must keep our profession on the top of leadership ladder to ascertain that the purpose of our organization, as stated in Article II of the NHIMA Bylaws, is upheld. The article goes as follows: "…to promote the art and science of health information management and to improve the quality of comprehensive health information services for the welfare of the public and the State of Nebraska."

Charlene K. Tilson, RHIT

2005-2006 NHIMA President

SURVIVOR: HIM ISLAND – Fall Conference – September 15 & 16 – Villager Courtyard – Lincoln, NE

Flier and registration forms available at www.nhima.org

Thursday, September 15

7:30	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00	Welcome
8:15	NHIMA Update – Charlene Tilson, RHIT
8:45	AHIMA Annual Update – Wendy Mangin, MS, RHIA
9:30	Break & Vendor Exhibits
9:45	Real World of HIM: Assisting Providers in the QIO Scope of Work – Janet Dooley, RHIA
10:30	Extreme Makeover HIM: RHIOs – Nancy Shank, MBA
11:30	Lunch & Vendor Exhibits
12:45	The Apprentice: Hiring Tough, De-hiring Easier – Greg Gillespie, SPHR
1:30	Who's "Spine" is it Anyway?: Extreme Workstation Make-over – Todd Hedlund, DC
2:30	Break & Vendor Exhibits
2:45	American Idol of HIM: Modifier Clinic – Advanced Outpatient Issues – Lolita Jones, RHIA, CCS
5:15	Believe It or Not: Vendor Reception

Friday, September 16

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7:30	Registration & Breakfast
7:55	Welcome
8:00	The Contender: APC Institute – Evaluation & Management Coding – Lolita Jones, RHIA, CCS
10:00	Break & Vendor Exhibits
10:15	Continued – The Contender: APC Institute
11:15	HIM Survivor – Lois Givens, RHIA
12:00	Break & Box Lunches
12:15	Trading Spaces: Become a Community Educator – Spread the Word about the Personal Health Record – Ellen Jacobs, M.Ed., RHIA
1:00	The Mole: Interventional Radiology Coding – Debra Adams, RN, RHIA, CCS, CIC
2:00	Closing & Final Drawing

Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Stephanie A. Danner, RDA, FADAA
Kimberly A. Galt
Deena L Knobbe
Brenda J Machmueller
Nhi Le Nguyen
David White
Patricia A. Witt

> The NHIMA Membership List will not be included in News & Views as in the past. However, the NHIMA membership list can be emailed to NHIMA members. Request your list by emailing the NHIMA Central Office at *kim@consulthi.com*.

Geographic Nebraska CoP Contest by Charlene K. Tilson, RHIT

One of the main action plans for the "Success by Association" strategy in the NHIMA Strategic Plan for 2005-2006 is to "engage members to become involved through the use of Communities of Practice…" To start this, I sent NHIMA members an eBlast informing them of a contest using the discussion thread module. I then started an initial discussion thread which read as follows: "This discussion thread has been started for NHIMA members to help them find how easy it is to use the various Communities of Practice. The Nebraska CoP is not strictly for use by NHIMA members, but for all AHIMA members who would be interested in seeing what is developing in the HIM profession in the State of Nebraska. NHIMA members need to reply to this discussion thread in order to be entered into the contest mentioned in the eBlast I sent to them July 4th. Let's have a fantastic response to the contest and really see an increase in the use of our CoP by the NHIMA members!" We had 39 respondents to the contest challenge and their names were entered into a drawing for $50. The winner of this drawing was Shirley Carmichael.

If you have never accessed the Geographic Nebraska CoP, please take the time to do so. There are several discussion threads already started and you may find one that you would like to read or respond to.
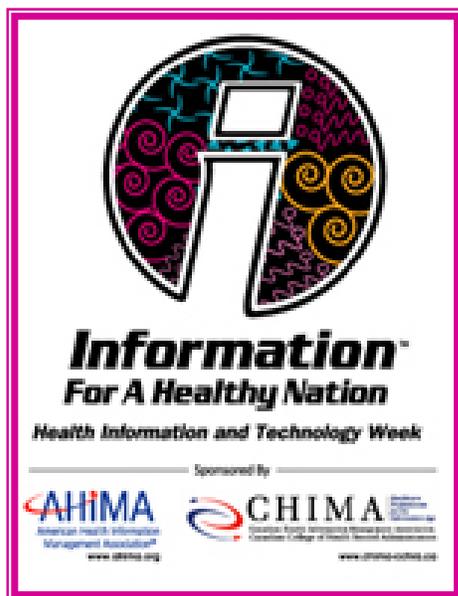
November 6 through 12 is Health Information and Technology (HI&T) Week. This annual event recognizes the work of health information management (HIM) professionals who maintain and protect the health information of Americans nationwide. HI&T Week has been sponsored by AHIMA since 1989. And for 2005, the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) is cosponsoring HI&T Week.

2005 Scholarship Winner – Katrina Plaster

Congratulations to our 2005 scholarship winner, Katrina Plaster. Katrina currently holds the credentials of CCS, and C-PAT. She received her Associate of Applied Science degree in HIMS on May 14, 2005 from Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska and is currently employed at Regional West Medical Center in Patient Financial Services. She has been accepted into the RHIA program at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. We wish Katrina the best of luck in furthering her HIM education!

It Is Time to Vote!! -- AHIMA National Election

The polls for AHIMA's national election opened August 23 at 12 a.m. CST and will remain open until September 10 at 11:59 p.m. CST. There are two ways to cast your vote—via the AHIMA Web site or by telephone. To access the online ballot, log in to the CoP at http://www.ahima.org. Eligible voting members will have a link entitled "2005 National Election" located on the top left side of the screen. Click on the link and you will automatically be directed to the ballot. (Remember you are only permitted to cast one ballot. Individuals who use telephone and online voting methods will have both ballots declared invalid.)

To view detailed biographical information on the candidates, select an individual's name on the ballot. To view the candidates' brief bios and pictures, go to the resource section of the Candidate CoP. You can also check pages 80-84

in the July/August *Journal of AHIMA* for a candidate's bio, job description, and photo. Be sure to visit: http://www.ahima.org/ for more national election details. Help us in our "Success by Association," by getting the message out to your fellow HIM professionals to cast their vote.

Please note, the link will only appear on the personal page of members who are Active, Senior, Graduate, and Honorary, holding a credential as of June 30, 2005. As noted above, eligible members can also vote via telephone; the number is (866) 688-3096.

As an eligible member, please get out there and vote! Each one of us can help make a difference and can make this a truly successful election."

Looking Ahead to the next NHIMA Election...

Next spring, the NHIMA election will be held electronically just like the AHIMA National Election. To be sure you can vote without problems and to get email reminders, be sure your AHIMA profile is up to date – most importantly, your email address. If you have questions, contact the Central Office at kim@consulthi.com.
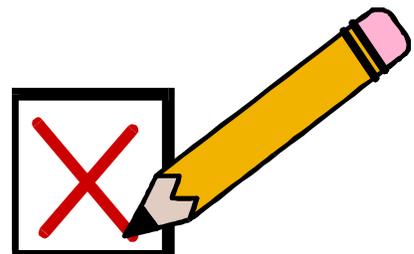
Current Action Alerts

AHIMA is currently asking Health Information Professionals for their support by requesting sponsorship from their legislative representatives for the following: HR 1227 the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act" , HR 215 the "Allied Health Professions Reinvestment Act", and S.473 the "Allied Health Reinvestment Act". Through the Advocacy Assistant on the www.AHIMA.org website, you may generate a letter asking for your representatives support for these issues. An excerpt from each of the letters is printed below:

Genetic Nondiscrimination Legislation

As a health information management professional and a member of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), I am writing to request that you cosponsor HR 1227, the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act." I strongly support HR 1227 and its bipartisan Senate counterpart, the unanimously (98-0) passed S. 306, which was introduced by Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME). The "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act" will establish strong protections against genetic discrimination in health insurance and employment.

Support HIM Education

As a health information management (HIM) professional and one of millions of allied health professionals, thank you for agreeing to cosponsor HR 215, the "Allied Health Professions Reinvestment Act." As you know, this bipartisan legislation is a critical antidote to address the workforce shortages faced by the allied health professions in today's healthcare system. The remedies provided for in this legislation will go a long way toward the education and training of future HIM and other allied health professionals.

Allied Health Reinvestment Act

I am writing to request that you co-sponsor S. 473, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act. Introduced by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), this legislation is intended to address the workforce shortages faced by the allied health professions. The legislation will amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the education and training of allied health professionals through loan and scholarship programs. Allied health represents over 100 different health professions, including my profession, health information management (HIM).

Additional legislative activity currently in progress is as follows:

Quality
The Medicare Value Purchasing Act of 2005 - *Bill # S.1356*
Summary: A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide incentives for the provision of high quality care under the Medicare program.
**Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 - *Bill # S.544*
Summary: A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely effect patient safety. The legislation contains provisions that call for the Secretary of HHS, within 36 months of enactment, to develop or adopt voluntary standards that promote the electronic exchange (interoperability) of healthcare information

Technology
**The Better Healthcare Through Information Technology Act - *Bill # S.1355*
Summary: A bill to enhance the adoption of health information technology and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of healthcare in the United States.
**The Health Technology to Enhance Quality Act of 2005 or the Health TEQ Act - *Bill # S.1262*
Status: 07/21/2005: Introductory remarks on measure. (CR S8591) **Summary:** A bill to reduce healthcare costs, improve efficiency, and improve healthcare quality through the development of a nation-wide interoperable health information technology system, and for other purposes. Title I of the legislation deals with health information technology standards and infrastructure development. Title II undertakes encouraging the use of interoperable health information systems. Finally, Title III focuses on adoption, implementation and use of healthcare quality measures.
The Health Information Technology Act of 2005 - *Bill # S.1227*
Summary: A bill to improve quality in health care by providing incentives for adoption of modern information technology.
Information Technology for Health Care Quality Act - *Bill # S.1223*
Summary: A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the quality and efficiency of health care delivery through improvements in health care information technology, and for other purposes.
National Health Information Infrastructure Incentives Act - *Bill # H.R.747*
Summary: To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to achieve a national health information infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable credit for expenditures of health care providers implementing such infrastructure. The bill also provides a mechanism through ONCHIT and the Commission on Systemic Interoperability on the development and adoption of standards.
21st Century Health Information Act - *Bill # H.R.2234*
Summary: To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make health information technology grants, and for other purposes. The legislation also addresses increased Medicare/Medicaid payments of health information technology usage, healthcare information technology certification, privacy requirements, 10-year loans to meet up-front purchasing costs for information technology investments, Stark and anti-kickback law exceptions, and uniform design requirements of regional health information networks.

Health Professions
**Allied Health Professions Reinvestment Act - *Bill # H.R.215*
Summary: Legislation to amend Title VII of the Public Health Service Act to revise existing and establish new initiatives for allied health education and faculty retention. The definition of allied health includes health information management.
**S. 473, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act - *Bill # S.473*
Summary: A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote and improve the allied health professions through scholarship, loan and grant programs.

Privacy/Confidentiality

Senator Clinton Introduces Outsourcing Privacy Bill - *Bill # S.810*

Rep. Markey Introduces Outsourcing Privacy Bill - *Bill # H.R.1653*

Summary: A bill to regulate the transmission of personally identifiable information to foreign affiliates and subcontractors. The legislation would:

Require American businesses and healthcare organizations to provide notice to their customers of their information sharing practices with foreign affiliates and subcontractors.

Require companies to provide consumers with an opportunity to opt out of such arrangements

Prohibit companies from denying service or charging more if consumers chose to opt out.

Hold companies directly liable to any person suffering damages resulting from the improper storage, duplication, sharing or other misuse of information including identify theft and related acts by foreign subcontractors.

**Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act - *Bill # S.306*

Summary: Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2005 - Amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code to expand the prohibition against discrimination by group health plans and health insurance issuers in the group and individual markets on the basis of genetic information or services to prohibit: (1) enrollment and premium discrimination based on information about a request for or receipt of genetic services; and (2) requiring genetic testing. Sets forth penalties for violations. Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to prohibit issuers of Medicare supplemental policies from discriminating on the basis of genetic information. Extends medical privacy and confidentiality rules to the disclosure of genetic information. Makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or training program to discriminate against an individual or deprive such individual of employment opportunities because of genetic information. Prohibits the collection and disclosure of genetic information, with certain exceptions. Establishes a Genetic Nondiscrimination Study Commission to review the developing science of genetics and advise Congress on the advisability of providing for a disparate impact cause of action under this Act.

**HR 1227, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act - *Bill # H.R.1227*

Summary: Introduced by Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL), Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and a bipartisan host of others, this legislation would prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with regard to health insurance and employment.

General

Affordable Health Care Act - *Bill # S.16*

Summary: Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise provisions governing the importation of prescription drugs. Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations allowing the importation of prescription drugs from certain countries. Allows the Secretary to require the sponsor of an approved drug to conduct one or more studies that confirms or refutes a credible hypothesis of a significant safety issue. Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish the Office of Health Information Technology to improve the quality and efficiency of health care delivery through the use of health information technology. Requires the Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish uniform health care quality measures and public reporting requirements across all federally supported health delivery programs. Amends the Social Security Act (SSA) to give States the option to expand or add coverage of children, pregnant women, and legal immigrants under titles XIX (Medicaid) and XXI (State Children's Health Insurance) (SCHIP). Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow certain small business employers a refundable tax credit for a portion of their employee health insurance costs. Amends SSA to set forth provisions (as a new title XXII) addressing health insurance coverage for small businesses.

NHIMA Policy & Procedure Revisions

The following policies were revised at the August 5, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

2.70 Nominating – Credentialing Committee
This policy was revised to reflect new procedures associated with using AHIMA's voting software.

Read All About It!!!   Member News

Cynthia Sestak, RHIA has recently been promoted as the Assistant Director for the VA Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System – Grand Island Division.

Monica Seeland, RHIA, has also been promoted to the position of Vice President of Quality Initiatives at the Nebraska Hospital Association.

Congratulations Cindy & Monica!

AHIMA Leadership Conference
by Kim Hazelton (NHIMA Secretary and Delegate)

My first visit to an AHIMA conference as a delegate was an eye-opening experience. We read the names and see pictures of Association leaders in the Journal of AHIMA, and on the website.   At Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in Chicago in July, we came face to face with these individuals. Hearing President Mervat Abdelhak and CEO Linda Kloss speak in person and with passion about the environment surrounding AHIMA and where we as an association are going was inspiring. I heard how we as individual HIM professionals can make a difference, and how some Component State Association's (CSA's) are making an impact on the profession in their home states. Charlene, Nancy, Donna and I attended general sessions together, and then there were break-out sessions on Sunday that allowed the opportunity to learn a little more in detail about various topics like planning a conference, managing board meetings, and handling a CSA budget. I went to the session on conference planning, and came away with new ideas and things to think about.

This was also an opportunity to cross paths with old acquaintances, and to network with other professionals from around the country. I ran into a woman I'd worked with on a conference planning committee in Oregon, spoke face-to-face with someone I'd had a telephone conversation with some time before, and rode the elevator with a lady that works with my Dad in Washington State. It really is a small world!

In addition to participating in meetings, there was time to get out and see some of Chicago. Standing out on the Navy Pier made me feel closer to the ocean than I'd been in years! Riding on a water taxi was invigorating (and a little wet), and the French fries at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company were delicious. To further enhance the cultural experience, we visited the Shedd Aquarium, walked past the Lollapalooza concert in the rain, and then stopped to hear a symphony orchestra play at Millenium Park. We arrived back in Omaha on Sunday tired, but cultured, inspired, and better acquainted than we'd been at the beginning of our trip.

College Spotlight – Western Nebraska Community College

As we start a new school year we are seeing strong enrollments in our classes. We have 17 student enrolled in Intro to HIMS online and 15 student taking it utilizing the interactive television system, making a total of 32 new student this year. We anticipate graduating 13 – 15 students in the spring from the AAS program.

The AAS program is now totally available online. We have also expanded the use of interactive technology within our online courses, allowing students to be at home on their computer and participate in real-time or listen in archive mode to lectures.

We are in the initial stage of a total curriculum revision to stay abreast with changes in the healthcare environment. We anticipate adding more information technology coursework and of course ICD-10. We are investigating adding some additional accelerated classes for current professionals who are seeking additional credentials in various specialties with HIM. As if that wasn't enough we have begun the process of revising curriculum for both our coding and transcription diploma programs as the initial step of seeking approval of these programs by AHIMA and AAMT.

As our students come from a broader geographic area we are getting to work with new Professional Practice Experience sites. We appreciate everyone's willingness to take our student into your department. We were also able for the first time to get some significant money in our budget for student travel, thus allowing us not only to bring our students to state meetings, but also to travel to see technology being used. All of this is in preparation for taking our students to the National Convention in Denver next year. We have even volunteered our students to serve as volunteers for that meeting.

Our pass rate on the RHIT exam for our 2004 graduates continues to be 100%. This May's graduates have begun taking the exam and are doing us proud, with one of our graduates scoring 124/130!

We lost two adjuncts over the summer with Julie Ernest moving to Alaska and Colleen Simianier moving to Denver. We continue to appreciate our 2 remaining adjuncts Robin Roebuck and Kim Weiss.

For the first time all 3 full-time faculty were able to attend the Assembly on Education meeting in St. Louis. We all found it very valuable and came back with long to do lists to keep enhancing our instruction of students.

We are looking forward to another great year here at WNCC.

Peg Wolff, MBA, RHIA, HIMS Program Director
Connie McDonnough, MSA, RHIA
Pam O'Neal, RHIT, CCS, LPN

WN Western Nebraska COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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2005-2006 Chairpersons:

Legislative Committee .... **Anne Skinne**
NHIMA Guide for Privacy,
Retention & Disclosure of
Health Information .... **Pam Koch**
Nominating Committee .... **Sharon Zach**
Archivist .... **Retha Hudkins**
Spring 2006 Conference
Committee .... **Diane Sutko**
Fall 2005 Conference
Committee .... **Kari Eskens**
Coding Roundtable .... **Marcella Bucknam**
Professional Promotions .... **Alison Harms**