

September 2014

President's Message

Happy fall to all of you. It would seem as I write this message that summer is ending and fall is beginning. Even with the weather we can't get away from change. I spoke to you last month of "change" as it directly relates to our profession, never ending, and ongoing change. I spoke of the need to embrace the changes we are seeing in our profession and with our jobs. I confess that as I wrote that message I kept having thoughts of finding ways to escape all these changes. But in continuing to think along those lines....I ask you, what in our lives doesn't change? Life and living has always been about "change", from the time we are born until we leave this world. We shouldn't allow ourselves to focus on the change itself but instead focus on the opportunities that come along with the changes and how well we are adapting.

On Saturday I had the opportunity to speak to a group of HIM students at Metro Community College and what a pleasure it was for me. I spoke of some of the changes that I have seen within healthcare in the 20 years that I have served as an HIM director and professional. I spoke to them of the changes that are occurring from electronic records, to the coding system, to the many new jobs that HIM professionals might pursue. My one observation from the students was that they seemed not to be worried about these changes (as I have been) but instead they embraced them as "the job." This is exactly how we all should feel.

There is one thing that hasn't changed in our profession though in relation to students. We, you and I, need to serve as mentors to these young people. We need to help them to know all the many opportunities that are out there for them. We need to encourage them to participate with NHIMA so that they know there are contacts for them to draw from and services that are offered to them. We need to encourage them to volunteer. Our association is built on people volunteers and without these people we have no association. In this season of change for HIM professionals, we need to be there for one another. We need to keep our profession out there so as we take on new roles and responsibilities the public knows that it is the HIM profession that is equipped to handle these new roles.

So as we see the seasons change and we look forward to cooler days, the beauty of the fall foliage, and football games for some of us fans, we need to manage ourselves up because we are the experts in health information management and this hasn't changed.

Shirley Carmichael, NHIMA President

FREE CEU Opportunity

AHIMA Board of Directors Representative Dana McWay volunteered to give a presentation to HIM Professionals in the Omaha area on August 6th. Eighteen HIM professionals and/or HIM students were in attendance of McWay's presentation "The Changing Roles of HIM Professionals". The presentation described how HIM has changed overtime, how it is currently changing, and how it will be changing in the near future. Also discussed were new emerging roles for HIM professionals. If you missed the presentation, don't worry....it was recorded and can be accessed via the www.nhima.org homepage.

2014 NHIMA Scholarship Winner



Meet Jill Judkins, this year's winner of the \$500 NHIMA scholarship.

Jill is currently attending Clarkson College where she is taking classes towards her Bachelor's degree in HIM as well as being employed by the State of Nebraska as a Social service supervisor. Jill notes herself to be a "detail" person and thus will be able to pick up on the details in a medical record to ensure accurate coding and payment. She has a desire to teach and hopes to eventually use her HIM knowledge to teach either in the college setting or be doing trainings for professional organizations. She has a desire to give back to the HIM community as her professors and mentors have done for her.

Congratulations Jill!

Student Representative to NHIMA Board of Directors

Last year the NHIMA Board identified the opportunity to have a student representative as a component of the Board of Directors. It is with pleasure that we introduce Ashely Oetken, Student Representative to the NHIMA Board of Directors. Ashley is a student at Clarkson College, pursuing a BS in Health Information Administration. Ashley is from Norfolk, NE.

In Ashley's application, she wrote: *"The health information management profession will allow me to combine my passion for caring for people and my interest in the business aspect of health care. The opportunities available for those with a health information management degree are endless. The health information management profession will be able to place me in roles that are rewarding and make a difference for those around me."*

Welcome Ashley!



Join the Blue Button Initiative

AHIMA encourages component state association (CSA) members to adopt the Blue Button Initiative by taking the Blue Button Pledge and adding their organization to the ever-growing list of supporters. Members can share Blue Button information with your employers and advocate that they participate.

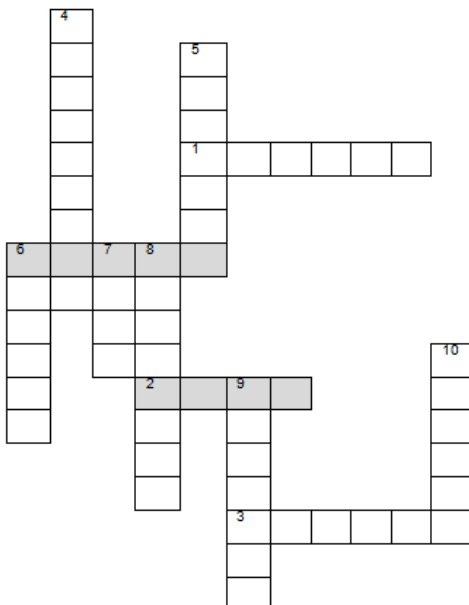
Through the pledge, organizations that manage health data promise to provide individuals with electronic access to their health information by hosting the Blue Button icon on their site and providing a secure portal to download and save their medical records. Non-data holders pledge to educate others about the importance of granting access to personal health information and developing tools to expedite the process.

The Initiative has been successfully employed by the US Department of Veterans Affairs through My HealthVet. The VA's portal gives the registrant access to the VA Blue Button, letting veterans, active duty service members, and their dependents and caregivers download their health information and better manage their healthcare. Following this success, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) seeks to expand the initiative to ensure digital health information access for all Americans.

Many AHIMA CSAs have taken the pledge. If your state isn't listed here, please consider alerting your CSA's board.

Tips for generating interest in the Blue Button Initiative:

- Take the [Blue Button Pledge](#).
- Consult the [HealthIT.gov site](#) for signage, videos, ads, talking points, events, and news you can share with patients and their families, vendors, and healthcare colleagues and business associates.
- Encourage and educate staff through dialogues or meetings to lead the charge and advise others on using Blue Button.
- Mount a social media campaign about consumer access to health information. Consider hosting a Twitter chat on the subject with the hashtag #bluebutton.
- Visit <http://myphr.com/> and the ONC's Blue Button Web site pages (<http://www.healthit.gov/patients-families/blue-button/about-blue-button>)
- Find more ideas [here!](#)



Introduction to ICD-10 Crossword

Across

1. Burn of second degree of right knee*
2. W19
3. Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left heel and midfoot with necrosis of muscle*

Down

4. Before birth through the first 28 days after birth
5. Study of body structure
6. Serous choroidal detachment, bilateral*
7. Exceptionally large newborn baby*
8. Having the form of a pear
9. A small lobe; a section or subdivision of a lobe
10. Subluxation of unspecified parts of unspecified shoulder girdle*

*ICD-10-CM code

See last page for solution

Advocacy Alert

Have you heard about the bill that has been introduced to Congress - HR 1701/S.972?

This bill is known as the "Cutting Costly Codes Act(s) and would "kill ICD-10. This bill is still active and will be until January 3rd 2015. We (AHIMA/NHIMA) will continue to monitor this legislation closely to ensure that this language is not included in any amendments or other bills that are considered in this current Congress. In addition AHIMA has provided us information that tells us that this bill will likely be re-introduced to the new Congress in 2015.

AHIMA is asking all of the CSA's to be vocal to our Senators and Representatives in Nebraska in showing our strong opposition to any further delays of ICD-10. We, your board will continue to monitor this closely and keep you informed of any news regarding this. It is possible in the future that we might E-blast our state membership if we need you to write letters or make phone calls.

NHIMA Contact Information:

Board Members - Committee/TF Chairs

Dates to Remember:

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

