

HIM & ONCOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES

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Florida Health Information Management Association

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President's Message

July/August 2002**"United We Stand"***Sharol Pausal Noblejas, MBA, RHIA, HCRM*

I would first like to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as your newly elected President. This truly is a dream come true. I could not have come this far without the help of many individuals seated before me. A special thank you to Carol Barr for inspiring me when I was a fresh UCF graduate. My senior year, Carol who was FHIMA President at the time, told me that someday, I would be FHIMA President. Carol, Here I am!!! I would also like to thank the Late Laura Clark, who served as my mentor for many years and always encouraged me to succeed in FHIMA. Also, thank you Jacquie Jones for always being there. To my parents, who could not be here today, for their constant support and for helping me choose this profession. And lastly to my husband Norman for his understanding, patience, love and support.

The theme of my term is **"United We Stand"**. I'm sure many of you know the significance of this theme as it applies to the current state of our nation against the war on terrorism. In coming up with my theme, I could think of none other to describe what we need to do in fighting the War of the Viability of our Health Information Management profession. The two battles that must be fought in this war

are the Battle of Diminishing Resources and the Battle of Self-Commitment. We must all work together to fight and win these battles.

The battle of Diminishing Resources can best be described in the analysis of some key statistics. The bureau of labor statistics has projected that Health Information Technicians will grow approximately 49% between 2000 and 2010. Health Information Administrators will grow by 32% within the same time period. If we function as we do today, we will not be able to meet the current need. Naturally, we would look to our educational institutions to help in this arena. Unfortunately, the Battle of Diminishing Resources has stretched to our HIT and HIM programs. Our platoon of students has decreased by 37% in Health Information Technology programs and 31% in Health Information Administrator programs. Our strategy in the Battle of Diminishing Resources must be to grow a battalion of individuals to meet the growing needs of the HIM labor force.

The Battle of Self-Commitment is one that is not easily fought, as this is both an internal and external battle. Externally, this battle exists, as our members must dodge the bullets fired at them to meet the demands of their bosses and peers. In doing so, providing the aid to others in our profession is placed on hold. The suffering is felt by our troop of new HIM and HIT graduates that are unable to find jobs because we as professionals do not have the time to train these graduates. Missiles are fired at our own HIM and HIT programs each time an HIM department turns away students who wish partake in Directed Practices or Management Affiliations in health care facilities. Internally, a bomb is dropped on our own profession, as members do not have the time to keep current on issues that will directly impact them. The loss of this internal battle will make it easy for other professions to invade our territory. The combination of these attacks will ultimately contribute to the demise of our profession.

We will not be able to win the war unless our members work together to achieve a common goal. President Ronald Reagan stated "The ultimate determinant in the struggle now going on for the world will not be bombs and rockets but a test of wills and ideas – a trial of spiritual resolve: the values we hold, the beliefs we cherish and the ideals to which we are dedicated." Our weapons will not be guns or cannons, phasers or light sabers, but a commitment to see our profession succeed!

Consider this a CALL TO ARMS!!. My fellow HIM professionals, I am asking you to join the fight. If you are not an AHIMA or Regional HIMA member, become one and attend the local meetings. If you are in a position to take directed practice or management affiliation students, take

one. Hire a new HIM or HIT graduate. Recruit at least one person into one of our many HIT or HIM programs. Keep current with what is happening around you and how this will impact our profession. Join the FHIMA Community of Practice and participate in discussion. Volunteer to serve on a committee at a local or state level. Talk to everyone about the diversity of our profession and be proud that you have chosen this profession. John Dickinson wrote, "Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all !! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall".

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND GOD BLESS FHIMA! Thank you!





**NEW! FLORIDA SHOTS
DATA EXCHANGE**

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FHIMA 2002 SERVICE AWARDS PROFILES



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA



The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution through service to FHIMA. **The recipient of FHIMA's 2002 Distinguished Service Award is Ms. Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA.**

Lori graduated from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY with a Bachelor's of Science in Medical Record Science in May 1988 and began her HIM career as Assistant Director of Medical Records at NCH Healthcare Systems in Naples, FL in June 1988. She was employed at NHC Healthcare Systems until September 1999 and during that time also held positions as Clinical Reimbursement Specialist and Systems Analyst for Management Information Services. In October 1995, Lori took on the role of Executive Coordinator of the Florida HIM Association in addition to

her duties at NHC.

Throughout her career, Lori has been actively involved in committees at the national, state, and local levels. Following is a list of her activities and accomplishments:

AHIMA

- Chairman, Credentials Committee 2001

FHIMA

- Member, AHIMA Convention Planning Committee
- Member, Electronic Task Force 1997-2000
- Chairman, Scholarship Committee 1993-1995
- Outstanding New Professional 1993
- Member, Nominating Committee 1992-1993
- Chairman, Public Relations 1992-1993
- Member, Recruitment Committee 1989-1990
- Chief Teller 1989

SWFHIMA

- Delegate to FHIMA House of Delegates 1990-1994
- Regional Delegate Advocate 1992-1993
- Chairman, By-Laws Committee
- Member, Executive Board 1990-1993
- President 1991-1992
- Regional Shaper 1991-1992
- Chairman, Education Committee 1990-1991

And then there is the role in which we are most familiar with seeing Lori in action: Executive Coordinator of FHIMA. Lori has worked tirelessly since October 1995 to support, improve, and advance our association. She was instrumental in the development of FHIMA's website in 1997 and still maintains it. In September 2000, she converted our paper-based newsletter, Coastlines, into an electronic newsletter, e-Coastlines. The conversion saved FHIMA over \$15,000 in printing and postage costs in just one year. Additionally, Lori has improved vendor relationships. Corporate membership has grown resulting in increased revenue for the association.

Every year, the FHIMA Board changes and Lori remains constant. She is the bridge from one administration to the next. She helps to provide continuity during times of change. She is the glue that holds our organization together. Lori's service, dedication, and loyalty is second to none. She has continuously and fiercely worked for the advancement of the HIM profession.

Lori is certainly deserving of this honor which is a small tribute when compared to all she has done for FHIMA. Thank you, Lori, for all you do for FHIMA and the HIM profession as a whole, and congratulations on being chosen as the recipient of **FHIMA's Distinguished Service Award for 2002.**

OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARD
Jacqueline Jones, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ



The Outstanding Professional Award recognizes an FHIMA member who demonstrates innovation and creativity in practice or education on the state and local level. **The recipient of FHIMA's 2002 Outstanding Professional Award is Jacqueline Jones, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ.**

For the last 20 years, Jacquie has left her mark in numerous places along her career path. She started as an Assistant Director in 1981 and through hard work, perseverance, and innovation has earned her current position as a Vice President at Wuesthoff Health Systems with administrative oversight of Brevard Home Care, Brevard Hospice, Wuesthoff Home Medical Equipment, Lithotripter, Wuesthoff's Adult Living Facility, Wuesthoff Progressive Care Center, the Children Advisory Program, and all of Information Management, which is made up of HIM, PI, JCAHO, and IS. Along the way, Jacquie has been involved in rebuilding a Peer Review Group in just 4 short months and saving an organization a great deal of money in a short period of time by implementing an outside chargemaster review agency. She identifies problems, proposes solutions, and rallies support. One of her supporters had this to say about her: "As an administrator she is a taskmaster and a driver, but she never asked her staff to do anything she wouldn't or didn't do. She leads by example and demand. It works."

Jacquie is currently on the HIM Advisory Board at Polk County Community College and has served on the UCF HIM Advisory Board. She has been a part of numerous presentations on the local, state, and national levels. Jacquie has served on and been Chairperson for several FHIMA committees including the Legislative Committee, Mid-Year Committee, and the HIM/IT Project. She has also published numerous articles in order to educate our members. She has been an FHIMA Director and has served

as President of our association. In fact, this past year she served as immediate Past President.

Congratulation, Jacquie, on being designated **FHIMA's Outstanding New Professional Award for 2002.**

**OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL
Kimberly Eichner, RHIA**



The Outstanding New Professional Award recognizes an FHIMA member who has made significant contributions to our profession within 5 years from the date of initial certification as an HIM Practitioner. **The recipient of FHIMA's 2002 Outstanding New Professional Award is Ms. Kimberly Eichner, RHIA.**

Kimberly graduated from the HIM Program at the University of Central Florida in 2000. After graduation, Kimberly was employed as the Operations manager of HIM for the Seminole Division of Florida Hospital, and last year was promoted to the position of Associate Director of HIM for the Seminole Division of Florida Hospital. Kimberly also serves as the JCAHO coordinator for all of the Florida Hospital HIM departments.

Besides being a member of AHIMA, Kimberly is very active at both the state and regional levels. Last year, she served on the Arrangements and Program Committees for FHIMA, served as a House of Delegates representative and was the Newsletter Committee Chairperson/Editor for the Central Florida HIM Association. For 2002, she is again a member of the Arrangements Committee and an FHIMA House of Delegates representative for FHIMA, and will serve the Central Florida HIM Association as the Program Chair.

Kimberly is a member of the UCF HIM Program Advisory Committee and is committed to the recruiting and mentoring of HIM student and professionals. She speaks at local high schools about the HIM profession and is always happy to accept professional practice experience and management affiliation students in her department.

Kimberly has been describe as an "excellent HIM role model and spokesperson". She has proven to be an invaluable asset to the HIM profession in a very short time, and is deserving of the honor is being recognized as **FHIMA's Outstanding New Professional in 2002.**

OUTSTANDING STUDENT**Kathy Sheerin**

The Outstanding Student Award recognizes a student who has made a contribution to the Association through special projects or service. **The recipient of FHIMA's 2002 Outstanding Student Award is Ms. Kathy Sheerin.**

Kathy is a student in her senior year at the University of Central Florida. She has an outstanding academic record with a 4.0 G.P.A. at UCF and an overall G.P.A. of 3.75. While at UCF, she has been very involved as the HIM student representative to the Dean's Advisory Council for the College of Health and Public Affairs, and as a student member of the HIM Program Accreditation Self-Study Committee. She has served as the Student HIM Association's Vice President, has been published in the Central Florida HIM Association's newsletter, the HIT, and last year was awarded the Betty Kernodle Memorial Scholarship given by the Central Florida HIM Association.

Kathy consistently attends Central Florida HIM Association meetings and FHIMA meetings. She credits her teachers for her motivation for success. This motivation caused her to take the initiative to redesign a Nursing Discharge Summary form at University Behavioral Center where she has been employed since 2000.

Kathy has been described as "a team-player" who "readily shares her knowledge and skills with others". This, along with her "go-getter attitude" and advocacy of the HIM profession, makes Kathy Sheerin a natural choice for **FHIMA's Outstanding Student for 2002.**

FHIMA FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS

Lois A. Bowden, RHIA
Nancy E. Holz

2002/2003 FHIMA Board of Directors

On Wednesday, June 5, 2002, the 2002/2003 Board of Directors were installed at the Annual Membership Luncheon. The new officers are:

President

Sharol Pausal Noblejas, MBA, RHIA, HCRM

President-Elect

Ashlyn Dellenger, RHIA

Past President/Director

Mario A. Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P

Directors

Daniel Land, RHIT, CCS
Penny Fairo, RHIA
Tara McIntyre-Morgan, RHIA
Michelle Mock, RHIA
RoseAnn Webb, RHIA, LHRM
Gladys Worlds, Ms, RHIA, CPHQ

Chief Delegate

Holly Woemmel, MA, RHIA

Executive Director

Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA

FHIMA Scholarship Recipients



Graduate

Marjorie McNeil, MS, RHIA, CCS

Florida A& M University

HIM Program - 2 Year

Diana Spaulding

Indian River Community College

The winners were awarded their monies at the annual FHIMA conference during the Membership Luncheon on June 5th. Thanks also to PRG Publishing, Inc., Smart Corporation and Stat Solutions for contributing to the scholarship fund this year. FHIMA also wants to thank the following regions for their contributions as well: Broward, Central, Gulfcoast, South Florida, Southwest Health Information Management Associations. It is such a worthy cause for the future of our Health Information leaders and FHIMA is proud to be able to provide these scholarships for many years to come.

Getting Practical with Privacy
August 8-9, 2002
Crowne Plaza at Universal
Orlando, Florida

FHIMA is co-sponsoring this event with AHIMA.

Bring Your Questions—The Experts Will Have the Answers!
Let the experts point you in the right direction for implementing the Privacy Rule. They make it easy to understand, practical, and best of all, affordable.

Who Should Attend

Anyone seeking healthcare provider-oriented information or HIPAA implementation, including: HIM directors, privacy officers, in-house legal counsel, HIPAA implementation team members, IS staff, senior management, and compliance officers.

FREE—400-page Resource Book

Attendees will receive a free HIPAA privacy resource book, with more than 400 pages of practice briefs, sample forms, action plans, resource lists, and more!

Registration Fee

\$225

Click here to [REGISTER](#).

CAROL BARR'S RETIREMENT PARTY



You and a guest are invited to join the HIM Community at a cocktail party to wish ***Carol J. Barr*** well on her upcoming retirement on Saturday, July 27, 2002 at 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Lee's Tavern at Lee's Lakeside, 431 East Central Blvd, Orlando, Florida.

Cash Bar
Dressy Casual Attire

20.00 per person*
RSVP by July 20, 2002

*A portion of the monies collected will go towards the Carol J. Barr scholarship fund.

RSVP Slip. Please return this slip along with your payment prior to July 20th.

Name: _____

Number of Persons attending: _____

Total Amount Enclosed for party: \$_____

Please make party checks payable to **CFHIMA** and send to:

**Ashlyn Dellenger
3245 Oakmont Terrace
Longwood, FL 32779**

If you would like to donate an additional amount to the Carol J. Barr Scholarship Fund, please write in your donation in the space provided above and make your check out to **UCF Foundation, Inc.** *All donations to the Carol J. Barr Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.*

Additional Scholarship Amount enclosed: \$_____

Any Questions: adellenger@cfl.rr.com

SAVE THE DATE!



***FHIMA Annual Convention 2003
July 14-17, 2003 (Monday - Thursday)
Gaylord Palms Resort
www.gaylordpalms.com***

Experience the sun like never before! Here are some of the perks that the resort has to offer:



Complimentary self parking



No charge for local and 800 calls



Complimentary in-room internet access
(T-1 capacity)



Bottled water, orange juice, coffee & tea in each
room replenished daily



Access to fitness club at the Canyon Ranch Spa



Free transfers to and from Disney Theme Parks



Complimentary transfers to and from Falcon's Fire at
Gaylord Palms Golf Course and FREE range balls



GET THE ALL NEW 2002 Medical/Legal Guide to Health Care Records in Florida

The new Medical/Legal Guide to Health Care Records in Florida is now available and ready for purchase. The manuals are \$125. Students enrolled full-time in an accredited HIT/HIM program may purchase the guide for \$65.

Click here for an [ORDER FORM](#).



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NEFHIMA—Revival of the Regions

Dwan Thomas Flowers, RHIA, CCS



The Northeast Region has been actively striving for professional excellence during the 2001-2002 term. I am extremely proud of the advancement of our organization in the variety of excellent programs, the professional growth of our membership and the close relationships that have been fostered, as a result. NEFHIMA is truly on the move and hopes to continue to SHINE (Share Health Information and Network with Enthusiasm) as a premier HIM resource.

This term's activities began in July with a presentation on Remote Coding by Brad Allen from UASI. Upon Brad's visit to host facility, Shands Jacksonville, he shared how this fast-growing trend was equally accommodating for the facility and the employees. He also shared the disadvantages of this fairly new facet of the coding arena. The group met again at Shands Jacksonville in September of 2001 with an update on ICD-10 by Lori Wytka, RHIA of 3M Health Care. The members were astonished at how different the 10th revision is from previous revisions. The education in the U.S. for the use of this classification

system needs to start now. On November 9, 2001, the meeting was hosted by Baptist Medical Center. William Poleschuk of Information Builders presented The Business Side of Healthcare to us. He shared practical solutions for linking healthcare and financial data while providing useful information and management tools to healthcare leaders. Brian Black of MedScribe spoke on "Medical Records: The Importance of Efficient and Secure Dictation and Transcription, for our January 11, 2002 offering. Hosted by the HIM students at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, the gathering for his presentation was well attended. Brian answered technical questions regarding many aspects of Transcription. He shared some preparatory practices for monitoring and ensuring patient confidentiality during the remote transcription process in order to comply with the upcoming HIPAA Rules. On May 10, 2002, Donna Wolfe of CodeCorrect gave an interesting presentation at Shands Jacksonville, regarding current coding issues, called "APC Pitfalls—Steps Your Hospital Should Take to Avoid Unnecessary Payment Reduction Under OPPS". NEFHIMA extends a special thanks to Shands Jacksonville for frequently hosting the meetings over the past several years.

On April 5, 2002, NEFHIMA and the Northeast Florida Association for Healthcare Quality (NFAHQ) held it's 6th Annual Spring Seminar—Running the Race for Healthcare. The Spring Seminar is a collaborative effort by the two associations; it was an all-day event held at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel in Jacksonville, FL. Once again, it was a monumental success. There were many relevant topics presented and several willing vendors to assist with this event. Among the supporters were Stat Solutions, MedScribe, FMQAI, Information Builders, QuadraMed, Digital Voice Systems, UASI, Information Management Systems, LASON, Dolbey, Precyse Solutions and PIC Medical Group. There were 6 continuing education credits offered for various credentials, including: RHAs, RHITs, CPHQs, RNs, and many more. NEFHIMA and NFAHQ intend to continue collaborative efforts, as the two associations have similar missions, goals and members.

The final gathering of NEFHIMA for the 2001-2002 term will be held at the River City Brewery. The End of the Year Party/Board Installation is fast becoming a tradition within the Region. For the past three years, the organization has held presidential appreciation's in excellent environments, such as the Chart House in 2000 to honor Eudelia "Skip" Thomas for her contributions to NEFHIMA. In 2002 we met at the Adams Mark Hotel to acknowledge a very successful leadership year. This year, the River City Brewery will be the location for the ceremony to install the 2002-2003 Board. All are invited to help us celebrate.

This year's success would not be possible without the help

of a strong, supportive Board. For the 2001-2002 term, the following served on the Board or in Chair positions:

Dwan Thomas Flowers, RHIA, CCS President
Monica Hardy, MA, RHIA President-Elect/Program Chair
Carnell Hansley, RHIT Secretary
Eudelia "Skip" Thomas, MS, RHIA Treasurer/Scholarship Committee Chair
William Barron, RHIT Bylaws Chair
Chandrika Horton, RHIA Nominations Chair
Angela Ellerby, RHIT Newsletter Editor
Constance Taylor-Stephens, RHIA Membership Chair

I appreciate each of them individually for taking the time from their busy schedules to ensure the viability of this region. We have made every effort to listen to the needs of our members and incorporate improvements in our future operations. I see this trend continuing, if each professional makes it his/her personal responsibility to share the benefits of volunteerism with new professionals. Of particular note is NEFHIMA's revival of a newsletter. NEFHIMA Is On the Move is in the beginning stages; however, from what we have seen, we can expect more high quality updates and information sharing for about our region.

I am extremely proud to have served two consecutive terms as the president of this region. It is fast becoming the forum for Sharing Health Information and Networking with Enthusiasm that I had envisioned. With such a great team, we have made some strides to groom new professionals and to encourage them to participate in volunteer roles. The goal is always to ensure interest in the profession and share common concerns. We are on the right path to securing our viability and hope to become recognized as a resource for our community regarding Health Information Management needs. I look forward to continuing to be intricately involved with this association in the future and anticipate that it will continue to SHINE under Ms. Hardy's leadership for the 2002-2003 term. NEFHIMA will happily share the secrets to its success with other professional organizations, and we are equally willing to hear of new ideas and learn of strategies that other regions may have implemented successfully.

To learn more about the NEFHIMA, please contact Carnell Hansley, RHIT at hcarnell@bellsouth.net or call Dwan Thomas Flowers at (904) 953-2423 or e-mail Thomas.dwan@mayo.edu.

FHIMA'S 15th House of Delegates Summary

Ashlyn Dellenger, RHIA

President-elect

The FHIMA 15th HOD met on Tuesday June 4, 2002 at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando Florida. All but one region was in attendance at the meeting. This year's HOD broke tradition and the entire group of delegates in attendance met and discussed each issue brought before them, instead of the usual break out sessions that had been done in the past. This new format enabled the attendees to speak their minds about all three issues, instead of having to choose only one issue to discuss.

There were three issues that were brought before the delegates. Each issue brought about much debate and all sides of each issue were thoroughly examined. The issues were as follows:

Issues # 1 – Should FHIMA restructure regions to accommodate membership and reinforce participation? If so, should the regions be consolidated as proposed to change regional structure from the current 11 to 5 regions.

Background:

This issue was brought to the HOD since the regional presidents and president-elects talked about the difficulties they were having getting members to attend the local meetings. Florida currently has 11 regions. According to a study that Sharol Noblejas, RHIA had done, Florida has a very large number of regions compared to other states. This study also showed that most states are having difficulty in getting members to attend local association meetings. Different state structures were examined during this issue discussion. FHIMA does not govern the regions in any way.

Summary of Issue #1

Each of the regions in attendance stated that they were not in favor of restructuring their region. Most of the regions had already made some changes in meeting frequency and the type of meetings that were held. The meeting attendance was still low, but most regions felt that the changes that were implemented were positive.

Discussion continued on different ideas that could be used to help increase attendance and/or obtain speakers for the

regional meetings. Suggestions included using the Florida COP for sharing of ideas and advertising regional educational seminars. There was also discussion about where the regional members were obtaining their CE's. The delegates also mentioned that there were many non-traditional HIM members within all of the regions and that the local meetings seemed to center around traditional HIM positions. There needs to be some identification of what type of members are within each region and what type of education would be most beneficial to the regional members.

Issue #2 – Should FHIMA move the House of Delegate Authority for Voting to the Electronic Platform?

Background:

FHIMA currently conducts business once per year at the House of Delegates. Delegates are selected within each region to attend this meeting. At times, a delegate is unable to attend the HOD at the state meeting due to schedule conflicts; hence, their opinions and discussion are lost from the group.

AHIMA utilized the Communities of Practice platform to conduct a Virtual House of Delegates this past April. The delegates voted on the new privacy and security credentials. The virtual HOD was very successful.

Summary of Issue #2:

Of the regions that were present at the House of Delegates, all of them felt that a Virtual HOD would be a positive move for FHIMA. To set the HOD up within a COP would enable all delegates to have a vote and a voice regardless if they would be able to attend the formal HOD at the state meeting. This structure would also be a financial savings to FHIMA as well as the elected delegates within each region.

A few concerns were noted and would be worked out between the state and the regions. One region voiced concern about issue information not being available in advance to review it thoroughly prior to voting. There was also a concern about timeframes of when online discussion and voting would take place. Some delegates also discussed the lack of motivation and time to work on the computer once they are out of the workplace.

It was noted that only 200 members of FHIMA were currently a member of the Florida COP. This will be discussed further at the Leadership meeting in August, where the regional Presidents and President-elects will be

urged to encourage their members to join the COP.

One delegate stated that the Online Community is the future. The FHIMA delegates are paving the road for FHIMA's future!

Issue # 3 – Should a resolution from FHIMA be proposed to AHIMA to develop a strategy that secures the value of the coding credentials? (CCS, CCS-P)

Background:

Coding professionals are in demand and more and more healthcare organizations are seeking qualified coders. There has been an increase within the coding marketplace of non-AHIMA credentialed coders, which in turn is taking jobs away from AHIMA credentialed coders. There was legislation passed in the state of Hawaii, which required all independent coding/billing reviewers to be CPC certified.

Summary of Issue #3

Of the regions represented, all felt that some security of the CCS and CCS-P credentials needs to be put in place. All felt that AHIMA needs to ensure that the coding segment of our organization not be threatened by lesser known organizations.

Some of the other concerns that were raised were that we need to market our expertise and credentials to the physician's offices and insurance companies. There was discussion that these areas were hiring individuals that had non-AHIMA coding credentials.

Most organizations outside of hospitals do not know of the CCS and CCS-P.

Some of the educators in the forum discussed how important it is to educate the HIM and HIT students in coding. There was also mention of how graduating students could be given a basic coding credential until they are able to sit for an AHIMA exam. This base credential would show that they have graduated from an AHIMA accredited program.

All coders should be encouraged to gain credentials since AHIMA is looking to lobby that all coders be credentialed. The feeling within the group is that if AHIMA doesn't grab this legislation first, then some other organization may step up and gain control.

This issue will be discussed further at the AHIMA HOD in

San Francisco this September.



EZMedEd.com

"Web-Based Coding Education by Lolita Jones"

EZMedEd.com the Web Based Coding Educational Organization and the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA) has entered into a non binding agreement to provide what is overwhelmingly being regarded as the **"Gold Standard"** in coding education.

FHIMA is proud to be part of the EZMedEd.com partnering program.

Any member signing up and paying for courses between now and July 31, will receive an additional 20% summer discount. These prices are not on our web page.

EZMedEd.com now has over 26 courses and 70 hours of Web-based learning available to everyone, anywhere 24/7 with more courses on the way.

EZMedEd.com is in the process of including a coding strategies program in our curriculum as well as many other programs including a twenty course ICD-9 Series, Inpatient Rehab, Medical Terminology, APC updates, Coding Strategies and a physicians compliance and documentation program.

Lolita Jones, Director of Education and main author, is the nationally recognized authority in coding has been providing educational material and seminars to most of the major organizations throughout the US for many years. Now she is doing it directly for you. She includes information that was never able to be disseminated through brief lectures and static handouts. She provides detailed insights and useful coding hints, which are constantly being updated with current changes to increase the quality and productivity the HIM professional, but most of all increase revenue to the member institutions.

All courses have **AHIMA** CE Credits.

This is great way to protect your interests by making sure you are up to date on all the coding and compliance requirements.

FHIMA fully endorses these programs for our membership.

We will be able to access the courses directly through our web link just by clicking on www.ezmeded.com/fhima

I hope that as members of this association you will carefully review and take advantage of this great opportunity.

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT BARRY NOVICK AT 800.486.4582 or info@ezmeded.com

**FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS
AVAILABLE ON-LINE BY FMQAI**



Health information management professionals can earn free continuing education credits through e-learning on Florida Medical Quality Assurance's Web site, www.fmqai.com. The link to the three continuing education courses on the site is titled "E-learning Center."

Courses are titled "Introduction to the Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP)," "Documentation, Reimbursement and Compliance" and "MedQuest: A Data Collection Application." Completion of each course earns 1.0 continuing education hours (HIM Educational Content: Technology).

Each course can be completed in as little as one hour. There is no time limit. Participants can stop viewing after registering and return at a later time to complete courses.

The courses provide education about PEPP, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national effort to educate providers about payment errors. PEPP seeks to reduce the overall payment error rate and protect Medicare trust funds by monitoring in-patient prospective payment system claims.

Florida Medical Quality Assurance, Inc. (FMQAI), the agency hired by the federal government to monitor and improve healthcare for Medicare beneficiaries in Florida, and the University of South Florida's College of Medicine designed the Internet courses.

FHIMA Annual Report 2002-2003

FHIMA Strategic Plan 2001-2003



The Florida Health Information Management Association updated the Strategic Plan at the Annual Leadership Conference held in Orlando in August 2000. The FHIMA's Mission Statement is:

"The Florida Health Information Management Association is the membership organization of health information management which fosters the professional development of its members through education, communication and advocacy. These commitments thereby promote quality health information for the benefit of the public, the health care consumer, providers and other users of clinical data."

The major initiatives of the Strategic Plan are:

- I. EDUCATION
- II. ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- III. MEMBER PARTICIPATION

House of Delegates

The 15th House of Delegates for 2002 will seat 87 delegates plus the Board of Directors, for a total of 97. The meeting will be held on June 4, 2002 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Each region was notified by the Executive Coordinator of the number of active members in their region and the number of delegates to which they are entitled. Current issues will be discussed and a summary of conclusions published in *e-Coastlines*.

AHIMA

This year FHIMA is very fortunate to have a number of our members volunteering in various capacities at AHIMA. They are as follows:

- Perry Ellie – Community of Practice Task Advisory Task Force
- Diane Evangelista, RHIA - Advocacy and Public Policy Task Force Member
- Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA – Credentials Committee
- Barbara Fortuna, RHIA - Council on Certification - RHIT Educator
- Marleeta Jones-Burns, RHIT – Coding Policy and Strategy Committee
- William Kelly McLendon, RHIA – e-Health

- Task Force Member
- Barbara Mosley, PhD, RHIA - Research Committee
 - Floribel I. Peralta, RHIA - Credentials Committee
 - Mario A. Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS- P
Diversity Task Force
 - Linda T. Stone, RHIT - Council on Certification
 - RoseAnn Webb, RHIA - Credentials Committee

AHIMA CONVENTION 2001

CHAIRMAN – Irene Tramonte, RHIA

FHIMA had the honor of being the host state for the AHIMA 73rd Annual Convention. The convention was held in Miami Beach, Florida. The convention was a huge success and FHIMA shined with its hospitality. Many thanks to all the FHIMA ambassadors who staffed the FHIMA hospitality booth.

Central Office

Executive Coordinator - Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA

It has been a busy year at the Central Office. The Central Office is serving the needs of the members by maintaining e-Coastlines, keeping the FHIMA web site current and monitoring the Florida CoP. The Central Office is here to serve you and may be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:



FHIMA message line (239) 597-1751



FHIMA Fax (239) 597-1745.



FHIMA On-line at FHIMA@INFL.NET

Corporate Members

FHIMA's dedicated Corporate Members are:

Platinum Corporate Members

Dictaphone Healthcare Solutions
Digital Voice Systems, Inc.
Executive Record Services, Inc.
In Record Time
Professional Outsourcing, Inc.
Stat Solutions, Inc.

Gold Corporate Members

Accurate Coding, Inc.
eWebcoding
Health Information Associates
H.I.M. Quality Solutions, Inc.
Information Management Systems
Lanier Healthcare
MedWare, Inc.
Spaceport Imaging

Silver Corporate Members

3M Health Information Systems
ChartONE, Inc.
Crescendo Systems Corporation
Diskriter Healthcare Documentation Services
e-Coding Connections, Inc.
H.I.M. Recruiters

Arrangements Committee

Chairman – Judy Gygi, RHIA

Committee Members: Juana Colon, RHIA; Kimberly Eichner, RHIA; Tanya Kuehnast, RHIA; Robyn Register, RHIA; and Dean Ritchey, RHIA

The Committee has been working very hard being creative in planning for the Annual Meeting. The theme is "*Pioneers of the 21st Century - Following the Rhythm of Time.*" The registration form, hotel information and tentative program were mailed out to all FHIMA members and also featured in e-Coastlines. The Annual Meeting will provide an opportunity to interact with vendors and see their latest products and services, to network with others in the profession, and to congratulate award winners, scholarship recipients, newly elected officers and board members. At the Membership Luncheon, the new officers will be installed and recipients of service awards and scholarships will be presented. Prior to the conference beginning, the House of Delegates will meet. Although only delegates may vote, the House of Delegates is open to all members who wish to attend.

Budget Committee

Chairman – Jacquie Jones, RHIA

Member - Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA

The Budget was established and each committee contributed to keeping within the range of established allowances, without jeopardizing the service to our members. A complete 2000/2001 financial report is included with this report.

Bylaws Committee

Chairman – Dwan Thomas Flowers, RHIA

Annual review of national and state bylaws was conducted. The changes to the national bylaws were incorporated into the state bylaws. Voting for changes will be presented at the 15th House of Delegates on June 4, 2002.

Data Quality Management Committee

Chairman - Karla Phillipou, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, CPC

Members – Margi Clark, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, CPC, Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS, Cathy Minan, RHIT, CCS, Clare Salmon, RHIA, CCS, Donna Shumway, RHIA and Gladys Worlds, MS, RHIA, CPHQ

The DQMC goals for 2001-2002 were:

- ▶ To act as liaison for FHIMA to the Florida PRO (FMQAI).
- ▶ To promote AHIMA's coding and HIM credentials using AHIMA's "Payer's Guide to Healthcare Diagnostic and Procedural Data Quality".
- ▶ To reactivate the Coding Roundtable and interact with Roundtables from other states.
- ▶ To discuss and possibly resolve coding issues.
- ▶ To present at the Midyear and Annual Convention of FHIMA.
- ▶ To present coding issues through articles in e-Coastlines.

The DQMC goals were established to be accomplished by the excellent members who have volunteered their time. The DQMC would like you, the membership, to support us by bringing issues of importance to our attention. We may not be able to find answers for every problem, but we will certainly try, and by bringing some issues to national attention, maybe we will be able to resolve some issues of data quality, accuracy, and consistency.

e-Coastlines

Chairman – Daniel Land, RHIT, CCS

Member – Barbara Bernstein, RHIA, CCS and Sherry A. Davis, RHIA, CPA

The *e-Coastlines* Committee has worked diligently to produce a high quality, professional and useful publication for the HIM Community. The quality of both the publication and the FHIMA website has garnered state and national attention, including recognition from Linda Kloss, MA, RHIA, AHIMA Executive Vice President/CEO. The

committee has cultivated a group of talented authors who have written scholarly articles on topics including HIPAA, coding, compliance, medical transcription, the electronic medical record, release of information and professional development. The FHIMA website continues to serve as a valuable resource for the HIM community. The *e-Coastlines* committee have enjoyed a successful year, meeting all goals and objectives set forth at the beginning of the term.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Chairman – Lisa Brooks Taylor, RHIA, CCS
Members - Carol Barr, MA, RHIA, Stacie Buck, RHIA and Monica Hardy, MA, RHIA

The FIRE Committee (formerly the Shaper Committee) has been working hard to Find, Inspire, Recruit and Educate. The FHIMA recruitment packet has been a big success and will be distributed to all Regional Presidents at the FHIMA Leadership Conference in August 2002. It is the goal of the FIRE Committee to have each region participate in at least one career fair to promote the HIM profession. The committee is once again organizing an orientation at the Annual Convention. This orientation is targeted at students and first time FHIMA Convention attendees. The orientation will provide an overview of the convention, as well as the structure of FHIMA. This year, the students will participate in a bingo-type game to promote interaction between students and FHIMA members. All completed bingo cards will be placed in a drawing for a door prize at the conclusion of the convention.

Florida Membership 2001/2002

The AHIMA count by status as of April 30, 2002 is:

Active Members.....1,418
 Associate Members..... 101
 Honorary Members..... 13
 Senior Members 59
 Students Members 318

TOTAL1,909

Leadership Conference

The FHIMA Leadership Conference was held in Orlando on August 24-25, 2001. There were 9 regions represented with a total of 28 in attendance. The first day of the conference was spent discussing proposed bylaw amendments to be voted on at the AHIMA HOD. Presentations were provided on the FHIMA Website and the FHIMA FIRE Program. The second day the attendees participated a strategic planning session facilitated by Margaret Stewart, RHIA to update the FHIMA Strategic

Plan for 2001-2003.

Legislative Committee

Chairman – Blanca N. Barreto, RHIA, RN

Members - Betty Berson, RHIT, Sue Hitchens, RHIT, Daniel Land, RHIT, CCS, David Lugo, RHIA, CPUR, MBA, Iliana Magunagoicochea, RHIA, CCS and Marcy Rodriguez, CPC, CCS

This year the committee mainly focused on revising the Medical/Legal Guide. The committee also responded to questions from the membership and other interested parties regarding the legal aspects of managing health information. Throughout the year the committee kept in close contact with Mr. Bill Bell, Esq. of the Florida Hospital Association (FHA) and Mr. Don Asmonga who is the Government Relations Manager for AHIMA. The newly revised Medical/Legal Guide is now available for purchase by contacting the FHIMA Central Office.

Mid-Year Conference

Chairman – Peggy Meli, MS, RHIA

Members – Dora Cacciatore, RHIT, Juana Colon, RHIA, Sherry A. Davis, CPA, RHIA, Judy Gygi, RHIA, Xiomara Olazagasti, RHIA, and Dean Ritchey, RHIA.

The Mid-Year Conference theme this year was "*Sowing the Seeds of Change.*" The two most well received presentations included the personal development topic of managing the change process topic by Linda Ball from Leesburg Regional Medical Center and the timely topic of "Developing Proactive Listening Skills" presented by Martha McConnell from Orlando Regional Healthcare. In general, the seminar topics were technical in nature including a trauma case presentation by Dr. Smith and a follow-up presentation by Jerry Jorgenson on Coding of the Trauma Cases. Margi Clark on Interventional Radiology did a very appreciated presentation.

Thank you to Automated Document Solutions, Digital Voice Systems, Executive Record Systems, FYI Incorporated, In Record Time, Lexicode, Medquist, Woodham and Associatec for their generous support of the Midyear Conference.

Juana Colon, RHIA deserves special recognition for generating substantial vendor support for the FHIMA Mid Year Conference. All members of the committee worked very hard and did an excellent job. Thank you also to Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA and Tara McIntyre Morgan, MS, RHIA for the substantial support this year to the Mid Year Committee.

Nominating Committee

Chairman – Diane Evangelista, RHIA

Members - Susan Denny, RHIA, Anita Doupnik, RHIA, Jan Morat, RHIA and Diane Rolston, RHIA

The Nominating Committee put together an excellent ballot, which was mailed mid-March. Those elected are:

President-Elect	Ashlyn Dellenger, RHIA
Director	Daniel Land, RHIT, CCS
Director	Michelle Mock, RHIA
Director	Gladys Worlds, RHIA
AHIMA Delegate	Linda Stone, RHIT*
AHIMA Nominating Committee	Judy Smith, RHIA.

*Alternate delegate is Gwen Anderson, RHIT

Program Committee

Co-Chairman – Iliana Magunagoicoechea, RHIA, CCS

Co-Chairman – Jan Morat, RHIA

Members – Betty Berson, RHIT, Cindy Feinsilver, RHIA, Silvia Ortiz, RHIT, and Linda Stanic, RHIA

The Program Committee has an excellent slate of speakers offering 15 CE hours. This year's keynote speaker is former AHIMA President, Margaret Stewart, RHIA – "Selling Yourself." The other speakers include; Bill Bell, JD (Legislative Update), Mary Agnes Fields-Hinkle, RHIT (The "Nuts and Bolts" of Remote Coding), Lori Lucas, RHIA (Communities of Practice/New Member Orientation), Rose Dunn, RHIA ("Copying Costs - What's it Worth - Under HIPAA?"), Don Asmonga, MBA (AHIMA Advocacy & Update Policy), Debbi Ruthenbeck (Human Resources Issues affecting HIM), Panel Discussion including Careers on HIPAA, Risk Management, Transcription, Consulting, Hospice, Long Term Care, Behavioral Health, and Radiology Billing/Coding, Katherine Byrd, RHIA (AHIMA Update), and Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS (Current Coding Issues affecting HIM).

Scholarship Committee

Chairman – Sharon Fitzgerald, RHIT

All monies donated will be granted to the students selected. Individuals receiving scholarships this year are:

Marjorie McNeil, MS, RHIA, CCS

Florida A & M University

Diana Spaulding

Indian River Community College

Special thanks goes to the following sponsors for supporting the FHIMA Scholarship Program: Broward HIM Association, Central Florida HIM Association, Gulfcoast HIM Association, PRG Publishing, Inc., Smart Corporation, Inc., South Florida HIM Association, Southwest Florida HIM Association, and Stat Solutions, Inc.

Service Awards

Chairman – Melissa Larsen, RHIA, CTT+

Members - Tanya Ritchey-Kuehnast, RHIA and Jennifer Vinson, MS, RHIA

Multiple nominations were received for each category and FHIMA is proud to announce the recipients:

Distinguished Service Award:

Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA

Outstanding Professional Award:*Jacqueline Jones, MBS, RHIA, CPHQ***Outstanding New Professional Award:***Kimberly Eichner, RHIA***Outstanding Student Award:***Kathy Sheerin***50 Year Members:***Lois A. Bowden, RHIA**Nancy E. Holz***FUND BALANCE**

Assets as of December 31, 2001:

*Total Fund Balance: \$128,488.42***INCOME AND EXPENSES**

INCOME:	FY2001	Budgeted
AHIMA	45,620	33,000
Advertising	5,923	5,560
For the Record	8,399	4,500
Interest	3,031	3,000
Investment Income	8,000	8,000
Labels	597	200
Leadership Conference	0	300
Manuals	6,366	10,000
Mid-Year	16,277	12,000
Miscellaneous	1,773	
Program Ads - Annual	2,379	1,000
Registration - Annual	48,770	56,250
Scholarships Donations	2,325	1,000
Subscription		60

Vendor - Annual	47,168	40,000
	\$188,628	\$174,870

PROJECT EXPENSES:	FY2001	Budgeted
AHIMA Leadership	2,030	2,000
AHIMA Relations	4,488	2,000
Arrangements	33,973	32,000
Bylaws	18	
Data Quality Management	264	500
Delegate, National	3,250	4,300
Editorial	11,558	27,000
FIRE		100
Leadership Conference	8,275	8,000
Legislative	19	500
Manuals	2,786	5,000
Mid-Year	6,151	7,500
Nominating	2,248	3,200
Program	18,124	19,000
Scholarship	3,726	2,500
Service Awards	338	350
Team Talks (AHIMA)	2,913	1,500
	\$100,161	\$115,450

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES:	FY2000	Budgeted
Accountant	1,795	1,800

Bank Charges	169	150
Board	17,575	12,500
Computer Expenses	194	1,500
Copier Expenses	280	500
Credit Card Processing	353	
Exec. Coordinator	34,114	29,877
General	200	250
Gifts & Awards	797	600
House of Delegates	1,528	1,000
Insurance	2,991	2,000
Professional Dues	370	500
Taxes	334	2,000
Telephone	1,340	2,000
Web Site	5,516	4,000
	\$67,556	\$58,677
PROFIT (LOSS)	\$ 20,911	\$ 743

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FHIMA NEWS

ARTICLES

AHIMA UPDATE

e-Coastlines

AHIMA Update

July/August 2002

AHIMA Update

REGISTER NOW FOR AHIMA'S 74th ANNUAL CONVENTION AND EXHIBIT

KNOWLEDGE @ AHIMA
September 21-26
Moscone Convention Center
San Francisco, CA



Registration Fees & Deadlines:

Postmarked	AHIMA Member	Nonmember including dues	Nonmember
7/15/02	\$390	\$520	\$590
8/16/02	\$440	\$575	\$660
8/17/02 or later	\$485	\$615	\$695

No deadlines:

Seniors \$215
Students \$30

To find out more about the convention and to register online, go to the convention homepage at <http://www.ahima.org/convention/>

Journal of AHIMA Wins Two ASHPE Awards

June 2002--The Journal of AHIMA recently received two awards in the American Society of Healthcare Publication Editors' 2002 Awards Competition.

The Journal's "HIPAA on the Job" column, written by Margret Amatayakul, RHIA, FHIMSS, won a silver award in the best regular column/contributed category. The column first appeared in April 2000, prior to the release of the final HIPAA regulations, to assist HIM professionals in becoming comfortable with the concepts of HIPAA implementation.

The Managed Care Series won a bronze award in the best feature article series category. This series of features highlighting health information management opportunities in managed care appeared in the June through November/December 2001 issues of the Journal.

For a complete list of articles, visit
<http://www.ahima.org/journal/award02.html>

SPECIALTY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

AHIMA now offers two Specialty Advancement Programs in Clinical Data Management and Privacy. The programs are offered as a response to industry demands for more advanced health information skills. The intensive training is designed to expand participants job skills and prepare them to assume roles of greater responsibility. Programs include three courses and a one-day face-to-face institute. The self-paced courses are available online. Those who complete all three courses and attend the Institute obtain a Certificate of Completion in their chosen Specialty. This is a great way to demonstrate your knowledge and expertise to both your employers and colleagues. For detailed information on each program, go to
<http://www.ahimacampus.org/>

CoP NEWS YOU CAN USE

Are you having trouble logging into the CoP? Did you forget your password? Here are some steps to help you access the CoP.

--Start at the AHIMA home page by typing
<http://www.ahima.org/> in your browser's address line

--Click on the Communities of Practice link

--On the CoP login page, type your Member ID number in the Member ID Number field and your last name in the

password field, then click Login.

Below the login boxes are two links to use if you are having trouble with the login process. Use the first link (e-mail my password) if you have forgotten your password. Click on this link and enter the e-mail address you have listed in AHIMA's database and you will be sent your password. Select the second link for assistance with logging in. After submitting your name and member number, customer service will be sent a message and respond to you.

If you are in the CoP but having trouble with a particular function, please click on the Help (life preserver) icon on the right side of the tool bar at the top of the page. Provide as much information as you can on the error message you received or the problem you are experiencing. Customer service will respond to your inquiry. Additionally, you may contact help via e-mail at cophelp@ahima.org or by phone at 312-233-1100 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm CST. We hope these tips provide smoother sailing for accessing the CoP.

Don't forget to sign up for the Florida CoP. It is up and running!



AHIMA EVENT CALENDAR JULY - DECEMBER 2002

July 15 - July 16

Getting Practical with Privacy
Atlanta, GA

July 18

Audio Seminar: Creating Productivity Monitoring
Benchmarks: Part 1

July 19

Team Talks
Chicago, IL

July 20 - July 21

Leadership Conference
Chicago, IL

July 25 - July 26

Getting Practical with Privacy
Washington, D.C.

July 25

Audio Seminar: Creating Productivity Monitoring
Benchmarks: Part 2

August 1 - August 2

Getting Practical with Privacy
Newark, N.J.

August 8 - August 9

Getting Practical with Privacy
Orlando, FL

August 12 - August 13

Getting Practical with Privacy
Minneapolis, MN

September 21 - September 26

2002 AHIMA National Convention and Exhibit
San Francisco, CA

September 21 - September 22

Coding (SCC) Community Meeting
San Francisco, CA

September 23 - September 25

CoP Events at the 2002 National Convention
San Francisco, CA

September 27

FORE Practice Solution applications due

September 27

FORE Grant-in-Aid & Dissertation Assistance applications
deadline

October 24 - October 25

Getting Practical with Privacy
Los Angeles, CA

October 31

FORE Best Practice Award submissions due

November 3 - November 9

National HI&T Week

December 2

FORE Practice Solution applications due

UPDATE AHIMA MEMBER PROFILE

Help us make Communities of Practice Member Search the
best possible networking tool!

We hope that you are visiting Communities often and
taking advantage of all the networking and knowledge-
sharing opportunities that communities provide to you ...
AHIMA members!

While you were there, did you use the member

search? The search function can be very powerful as you build your professional network of peers with common interests and challenges. However, if another member who should be in your network conducted a search using demographic criteria, your name would not appear because you haven't completed the entire membership profile.

Completing your profile will take about ten minutes of your time . . . and it will be ten minutes well spent. You not only will be a full participant in the Communities of Practice experience, but you will also be giving AHIMA the information it needs to tailor its services and offerings to meet your unique needs as an HIM professional.

You can use the following link to update your profile now:
<https://imis.ahima.org/Source/security/member-logon.cfm?section=Home>

You can also access your membership record through communities of practice by clicking on the icon "update member profile" at the top of every page. Or, you can get to your profile from the AHIMA web site www.ahima.org and clicking "membership" and then "update member profile."

After you have updated your membership record, you will need to click the "continue editing" button above your information. This will take you to the four windows you need for a complete profile. Simply make your changes and submit for each of the four windows.

This is important . . . for both you and for AHIMA. Please give us ten minutes today!

Contacting AHIMA

For general queries, email info@ahima.org. For professional practice questions, go to the AHIMA Online practice forums at <http://www.ahima.org/bibs/index.html> or send email to: proprac@ahima.org.

If you'd like to update your mailing address or email address, include your full name, member ID number and your new information - send to: info@ahima.org. For general questions, contact [AHIMA Online](#).