

HIM & ONCOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES

Backlog woes?**FHIMA**

Florida Health Information Management Association

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President's Message

March / April 2003**"Fighting the War"***Sharol P. Noblejas, MBA, RHIA, HCRM*

Much has happened in the world around us since the turn of the year. One of the symbols of our great nation, Space Shuttle Columbia, tragically exploded in February. The potential of war with Iraq is imminent. Companies are continuing to struggle and we hear of layoffs every day. I am sure that the members in the state of Florida are not immune to these national events. To our members affected by these events, our thoughts are with you.

Our profession and our State continue to fight the War of our Viability. We have learned of a company attempting to market themselves in remote transcription and coding that are using non-AHIMA credentialed staff from foreign countries. Their hope is to gain our business by providing lower cost services to hospitals and physicians offices by employing these foreign individuals. Once again, the value of the AHIMA credential is threatened. FHIMA is currently working on a strategy for our state representatives to

recognize the value of the AHIMA credential.

As part of the weapons needed to fight our war, we must constantly promote the value of our credentials. We are pleased to announce that FHIMA has formed a partnership with the Florida Association of Medical Transcriptionists (FAMT). Both of our organizations felt that we would mutually benefit from the sharing of resources. The announcement and details of our partnership are included in this edition of E-Coastlines. FHIMA was also invited to host a reception for the American Association of Hospital Accountants on March 2 in Key Largo. This reception provided an excellent opportunity for us to network and help them understand what we do as HIM professionals.

Our Board and committees have been hard at work through the holidays. The program for the annual convention, that will be held at the Gaylord Palms Hotel on July 15 – 17 in Orlando, has been finalized. Some of the topics include, Healthcare Fraud and Abuse, Bioterrorism, Understanding contracts, what the OIG expects, new JCAHO standards, Emerging Technology and the Revenue Cycle. We will also have a Keynote Speaker talking about Laughter in Healthcare. An additional 4 CEU's will be added to our program this year as we will have a full day of topics dedicated to Coding on the last day of the convention. We hope that all of our members will be able to attend this convention.

The FIRE Committee is working on getting volunteers to serve on a regional level. This is a wonderful opportunity to recruit students into our profession. If you are interested, please contact Stacie Buck, RHIA.

The Legislative Committee has been working on updating the Legal Manual to include HIPAA Requirements. A letter writing campaign to educate our State Representatives about our profession was also started by our Legislative Committee. Unfortunately, our membership did not take advantage of this opportunity to promote our profession. If you have not done so, please take a couple of minutes to write a letter to your congressman and /or state senators that simply informs them that our profession does exist. A sample letter is included in this edition of E-Coastlines.

Once upon a time, a job in healthcare was secure. We are now finding that our HIM profession is not immune to the struggles of the business world. I cannot emphasize the importance of participation by our members in order to ensure our place in the healthcare business world. FHIMA is working hard to find ways in which we can promote our profession. However, we cannot be successful without our members. Remember, we cannot win the war if we do not fight!





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FHIMA ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2003
"United We Stand"

Date:
 July 14-17, 2003 (Monday - Thursday)

Place:
[Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center](#)
 6000 Osceola Parkway
 Kissimmee, FL 34746
 (407) 586-0000

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Monday July 14, 2003	(TENTATIVE SCHEDULE) 18 CEU's OFFERED
Registration Hours	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Hospitality Hours	CLOSED
Exhibit Hours	CLOSED
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Registration

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	House of Delegates <i>All members are encouraged to observe the FHIMA Legislative process</i>
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Leadership Dinner (By Invitation Only)
Tuesday, July 15, 2003	
Registration Hours	7:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Hospitality Hours	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Exhibit Hours	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	"Maintain Professionalism & Learn to Lighten Up" <i>Paul E. McGhee, PhD,</i> <i>Keynote Speaker</i> <i>President, The Laughter Remedy</i> Learn how a good sense of humor is an essential survival tool. (Management Development – 1 CEU)
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	"Healthcare Fraud and Abuse ~ Fact or Fiction" <i>Tim Delaney, Unit Chief, Health Care Fraud Unit</i> Information and perspectives from a FBI agent. (External Forces - 1 CEU)
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Our Genetic Information <i>Barbara Fuller, JD, RHIA</i> Hear about the ethical and legal issues surrounding this topic. (Clinical Foundations – 1 CEU)
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	HIPAA – Where are we & where are we going? <i>Hugh P. McDermott, Esq.</i>

	<p>A view on the current issues and trends with HIPAA.</p> <p>(External Forces – 1 CEU)</p>
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	<p>A Bold Look at New Technologies in HIM <i>Kelly McLendon, RHIA</i></p> <p>An insightful glance at what the future holds for HIM. (Technology – 1 CEU)</p>
Wednesday, July 16, 2003	
Registration Hours	7:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Hospitality Hours	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Exhibit Hours	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<p>AHIMA Update <i>Katherine Byrd, RHIA</i></p> <p>A lively update on the latest issues of AHIMA. (Management Development – 1 CEU)</p>
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	<p>"The Revenue Cycle" <i>Karolyn Broussard, MBA, RHIA</i></p> <p>Discover how this cycle impacts your organization. (Performance Improvement - 1 CEU)</p>
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<p>Corporate Integrity Agreements: What the OIG Expects <i>Mario Perez, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P</i></p> <p>A lively presentation on the OIG's Great Expectations. (External Forces – 1 CEU)</p>
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch with Exhibitors
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<p>Bioterrorism – How Real is the Threat? <i>Speaker - TBD</i></p>

	The latest facts from an active military officer. (External Forces – 1 CEU)
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Compliance for Birth Records <i>Sharon B. Dover</i> <i>Office of Vital Statistics</i> Informative information for filing timely birth records. (External Forces – 1 CEU)
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	The Latest & Greatest in Medical Transcription <i>Brenda Hurley, CMT, FAAMT</i> A look into what is new in the Transcription field. (Technology – 1 CEU)
Thursday, July 17, 2003	
Registration Hours	7:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Hospitality Hours	CLOSED
Exhibit Hours	CLOSED
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	2004 Coding Changes & Challenges <i>Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS</i> A lively update on the latest and greatest changes. (Clinical Data Management – 1 CEU)
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Documentation & DRGs <i>Mark Michelman, MD and</i> <i>Lauri Bernick, RHIT</i> Learn about physician documentation & higher adjusted DRGs. (Clinical Data Management – 1.5 CEU)
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	BREAK
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	APCs ~ A Current Look <i>Arlene Baril, MS, RHIA</i> A detailed presentation on APC's. (Clinical Data Management – 1 CEU)
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH (on your own)
	Interventional Radiology <i>Margaret Kendrick, RHIA, CCS</i>

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Information from an expert in Interventional Radiology; presentation includes a Q&A session. (Clinical Data Management – 1 CEU)
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	BREAK
2:15 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>CODING ROUND TABLE <i>Moderators: Rae Glover, RHIT, CCS, Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS, Jacquie Jones, RHIA, Karla Philippou, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, CPC, Susan Brown, RHIA, Jerry Jorgensen, RHIA, CCS, Brandy Ziesemer, RHIA, Katherine Baus, RHIA, CCS-P, Becky Dicus, RHIA, Tandra Kipp, RHIA</i></p> <p>Participate in educational discussions on four hot topics in Coding, and brainstorm with other professionals on specific coding issues. Today's speakers will be available to offer guidance during the discussions.</p> <p><i>2:15-3:30pm : Individual table discussions.</i> <i>3:30-4:30pm : 15-minute presentation from each table.</i> <i>4:30-5:00pm : Overview of final conclusions.</i></p> <p>(Clinical Data Management – 1 CEU)</p>

Registration Fee Structure:

Registration Type	FHIMA MEMBER Advance (by June 16, 2003)	FHIMA MEMBER Late	NON-MEMBER Advance (by June 16, 2003)	NON-MEMBER Late
FULL (7/15-7/17) includes ALL food functions	\$285	\$310	\$310	\$335
Two Days				

Only (7/15-7/16) includes Membership Luncheon and Exhibitor Luncheon	\$200	\$225	\$225	\$250
One Day Only (7/15, 7/16 or 7/17) includes functions for the day an admittance to the exhibit hall on 7/15 & 7/16	\$135	\$160	\$160	\$185
* Student - includes ALL food functions	\$90	\$100 Daily \$35		
* Student - does NOT include food functions * Students MUST pre-register by June 16, 2003 to qualify for free registration.	\$0	\$35 Daily \$35		
Exhibit Hall Only	\$50	\$75		
Additional Tickets for Membership Luncheon	\$35	\$35		

* HIM students - to qualify for the discounts, you **MUST** be an AHIMA member, a member of FHIMA **AND** have your Program Director sign the registration form.

To register on-line with a credit card OR for a complete registration form, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Attire: Business Casual

For exhibit space, contact Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA at fhima@infi.net or (239) 597-1751.

GAYLORD PALMS RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER



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State-of-the-art and expansive convention, meeting, and exhibition space, designed with the meeting planner in mind.

The largest spa in Central Florida, a leading-edge fitness and health facility, and a championship golf course at Falcon's Fire.

Special activities for children including the La Petite Academy® Kids Station only 5 minutes away from the main gates of Disney, offering daily activities.

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Rates:

Single/Double - \$156

Emerald Tower - \$188

Deluxe Suite - \$278
 Executive Suite - \$328

Reservation Phone Number:
 407-586-0000

Reservations must be received **no later than June 12, 2003**.
 Reservations must be guaranteed by advance payment of one night room deposit.

For more information contact:
[Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA](mailto:Lori.Eytel.Lucas@RHIA.com) at (239) 597-1751

Visit the resort website for more information at
www.gaylordhotels.com









2003 FHIMA BALLOT	
President Elect	(Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS Orlando - Central	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tara McIntyre Morgan, MS, RHIA Orlando - Central	
Director	(Vote for Three)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stacie L. Buck, RHIA, LHRM Palm Beach – Suncoast	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kimberly Eichner, RHIA Orlando – Central	
<input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Glavan, MS, RHIA Tampa - Gulfcoast	
<input type="checkbox"/> Karla Philippou, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, CHCC Tampa - Gulfcoast	
Delegate to AHIMA	(Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> Perry E. Ellie, MA, RHIA Largo – Gulfcoast	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lois Yoder, RHIT, CCS Naples - Southwest	

Exercise your privilege to vote and return your ballot **no later than April 28, 2003**.

SERVICE AWARDS

ATTENTION: All FHIMA Members

Nominations are now open for the following awards:

-  Distinguished Member
-  Distinguished Service (FHIMA Member or Non-member)
-  Literary
-  Outstanding Student
-  Outstanding New Professional
-  Outstanding Professional (Practitioner or educator)

We have many deserving members. Please review the criteria and submit your nomination to:

Eudelia (Skip) Thomas, MS, RHIA
4501 Capper Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218
(W) (904) 766-6749
ethomas@fccj.org

Deadline for receipt of nominations is May 1, 2003.

****Please Note:** As per 2000-2001 policy and procedures **nominees** will be contacted to provide supporting information to the committee.

Nomination Form - Service Awards



Distinguished Member



Outstanding Student



Distinguished Service



Outstanding New Professional



Literary Award



Outstanding Professional

Click Here For The [Service Awards Nomination Form](#).

Click Here For The [FHIMA Resume Criteria for Awards Nomination](#).

2003 FHIMA SCHOLARSHIP

Margaret Heller, RHIA



Florida Health Information Management Association is pleased to announce a continued support of individuals pursuing Health Information Management careers. FHIMA has again voted to provide scholarships this year to students enrolled in both undergraduate and graduate studies related to the Health Information Management field.

As in years past, scholarships will be awarded to FHIMA members to defray the cost of a Health Information Management related education. Awards will be presented at the Membership Luncheon during the 2003 Annual Convention. Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing of their award in June. Scholarship recipients are strongly encouraged to be present at the Annual Convention Membership Luncheon to accept the award.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applications are available from Program Directors, on the FHIMA website, or by contacting the Scholarship Chairperson. Your completed scholarship application and required attachments must be received by the FHIMA Scholarship Chairperson no later than published deadline.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be presently enrolled in one of the following program

Health Information Management Program.

Health Information Technology Program.

Graduate level degree seeking program relevant to H.I.M. (Graduate applicants must be either an RHIA or RHIT and have a bachelor's degree)

Current membership in AHIMA/FHIMA .

An individual is only eligible to win one scholarship for each category.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2003

Mail Applications & Attachments To:

Margaret Heller, RHIA
FHIMA Scholarship Chairman - 2003

2200 Heathwood Cir
Orlando , FL 32825-4605
(W) (407) 897-5711
margaret.heller@flhosp.org

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION:

FHIMA utilizes a point system to evaluate scholarship applicants. Scholarship Committee members will review the applications for the following criteria:



Properly completed application -- with attachments present



Scholastic ability -- official transcripts will be reviewed



Leadership ability -- the resume and/or other documents will be reviewed. The following areas will be considered: awards/honors, previous and current employment (if any), school activities, volunteer work etc...



Potential contribution to the profession -- the essay titled "How I Plan to Achieve My Long Range Professional/Career Goals" (undergraduates) or career objectives (graduate) will be reviewed.



Professionalism – supporting letters and professional organization membership

Click Here For The [FHIMA Scholarship Application AND Reference Criteria Form.](#)



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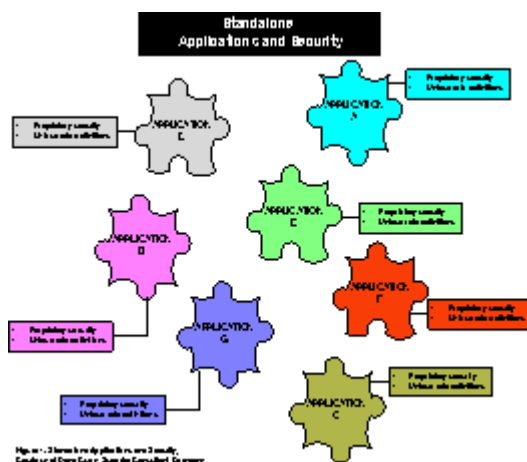
AHIMA UPDATE

Articles

March / April 2003

Coders: The Dilemma Credentials, or No Credentials?

**One Stop
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needs for over 15 years*



Judy Sturgeon, CCS
 Senior Manager, Data Management
 Patient Financial Services
 University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston , TX



This subject is causing a lot of concern for both provider and coder. Administrators and managers without coding experience need

to hire coders for their facilities and physicians. Compliance is not optional, and 'OIG' seems to have become a four-letter word in many minds. But how are these people to know a good coder from a bad coder?

The answer seems so obvious: Coding Credentials!

Well, yes and no. Sorry to be ambiguous, but that does seem to be a common thread in the fabric of the coding profession.

If you're the coder looking for employment, a credential can get your foot firmly in the door long enough to get the first interview. It separates you from the "I took a coding class, now where's my big salary?" crowd, and tells the employer that you're serious about your profession. Experience is what everyone wants, and experience with a credential beats experience alone. If you have NO experience, and you studied hard enough to pass one of the credentialing exams anyway, it should be obvious that you are a worthy candidate for training.

On the other hand, if you need to hire a coder, there is no substitute for an in-house coding and compliance competency test as part of an employment interview. Make sure the test is comprehensive, but fair to all applicants. Having a credential might only mean the person has good study and medical terminology skills, and isn't afraid of tests. They still might not be able to code 2 records per hour and keep you out of litigation on 50% of them. If there is no current staff to set up or grade the test, it might be advisable to spend a buck and save an ulcer – competent local contractors can pinch-hit for you. Notice the stress on the word competent: get references.

Then there's the issue of matching the credential with the position. An experienced Certified Professional Coder might swiftly reconsider their application for an inpatient hospital coding position when faced with the DRG dilemma. A Certified Coding Specialist with inpatient focus might have virtual seizures the first time they have to code a complex interventional radiology scenario in CPT format. (I speak from personal experience on that one.)

With all that in mind, hiring a competent coder seems somewhat like playing poker. A credential is only one ace; so is experience at a similar facility or billing group. Add ace number three: compliance skills. Remember that compliance is not the same thing as accurately selecting codes. Your coders not only have to know what the code is - they also have to know if you're allowed to use it for any particular claim. Ace number four is the prize coder who can maintain your production standard while keeping up accuracy and billing compliance. How can you beat that? Get a full house of them. Then do whatever it takes to keep them.

While a credential from American Academy of Professional Coders or American Health Information Management Association certainly adds clout to a resume, no one in their right mind can afford to dump a proven coder - solely for NOT having a credential. Establish solid coding, compliance, and production policies. Document your staff's

competency in all of these areas. If the coders can prove their skills, hold on tight to your treasure, for that is exactly what you have.

Judy Sturgeon's HIM Biography

Employment:

Senior Manager, Data Management
Patient Financial Services
University of Texas Medical Branch @ Galveston

Got into coding: By a fluke.

I started with a Major in nursing at Marquette University in Milwaukee, then switched to Medical Technology and graduated from their School of Medical Technology. Escaping a BS by the skin of my teeth, I switched to marriage and family, then back to work in a medical lab. I transferred to coding when lab processing included lots of new viral diseases: HIV, Hep C & D, and the return of TB - because my family threatened to hose me down with Clorox daily before they'd let me back in the house.

I didn't know what coding was, and had only heard that a DRG was something that would ruin all hospitals in the country. Who'd have thought they'd actually PAY somebody to sit down in air conditioning, read fascinating medical stuff, translate it into a foreign language, and even have RULES to use for reference! I manage 6 inpatient coders, 3 outpatient coders, a separate abstracting staff of 3 and 2 DRG review staff who check the records concurrently to clarify documentation before discharge.

I took the first CCS exam offered. What a beast! I have the utmost respect for anyone who can obtain any of the coding credentials. It's not the only criteria I use when hiring, but it's a heavy-hitter just the same.

TWO ASSOCIATIONS, ONE COMMON GOAL

*Brenda J. Hurley, CMT, FAAMT
2003 FAMT President*

At the January strategic planning meeting for the Florida Association for Medical Transcription (FAMT), the light bulb of an idea was switched on. Before I share with you the process that culminated in the establishment of an alliance between the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA) and FAMT, it must be mentioned that the enthusiasm for this new endeavor has been shared mutually by the leaders of both professional organizations.

The FAMT strategic planning started with the "miracle" question, if

you woke up tomorrow morning and FAMT was a perfect organization – what would it look like? From that question each participant provided input on what a “perfect” FAMT would be. A laundry list of ideas flowed, and was summarized within two categories – the internal (within “our world” of transcription) and external (outside of “our world” of transcription) audience. Once we developed our lists and discussed actions to achieve the outcomes we desired, it was amazing how many items were interdependent with other items on the two different lists. What became illuminating to us was that in order to be successful, both as an organization and as a profession, we needed to think, and more importantly, embrace the fact that “our world of transcription” no longer exists as it has in the past. The boundaries of our specialty have expanded in such a way that they have become annihilated within today’s changing world of healthcare documentation. Clearly our relationship on the healthcare team as professional medical transcriptionists is also interdependent with other healthcare professionals. Just as we work as a team to be successful in assuring quality healthcare documentation at our workplace, it truly makes sense for our organizations to also work together to be successful.

Indeed we do share many commonalities. Consider the mission statements.

FHIMA's states: 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.

FAMT's states: In concert with AAMT, the Florida Association for Medical Transcription promotes, supports and encourages the medical transcription profession and industry within the State of Florida through representation, networking, and education.

Both organizations are based on education, advocacy, communication, and networking.

We also share the same membership challenges and successes. We both have members who are passionate about their profession and their support of their national organization. And we have members who reap the benefits without volunteering to assist in the work that needs to be done.

We both have a wish list of potential activities longer than the budget will allow us to implement.

We both continue to educate those who call us inappropriate titles such as “librarians” or “transcribers.”

We both have members who stand out as a role model and promote a positive professional image. We have some members who,

unfortunately, do not.

We both desperately need more qualified students motivated to complete their studies so they can begin their careers with the skills required for our next generation of professionals.

We both are blessed with members who beam with professional pride, inspire others around them, and are eager to make a difference!

It is clearly time to put our passion in motion. The leaders of the FHIMA and FAMT have, therefore, announced an alliance, and have agreed to share the following:

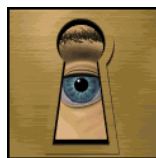
- Exchange of 1 full registration package for annual meetings.
- Exchange of speakers at annual meetings, as schedule permits.
- Exchange of an exhibit space at annual meetings.
- Exchange of newsletters.
- Exchange of newsletter articles.
- Establish website links.

This new alliance will provide expanded educational resources, rewarding networking opportunities, and strengthen the advocacy for our members as we share common interests and needs for quality medical documentation within the health information industry.

Be sure to keep that idea light switched on and glowing bright, as together we can achieve more through the combined talents of our 3,500 members, and with the mutual collaboration of our two dynamic organizations.

AHIMA Getting Practical with Privacy & Security Seminar

*Tara McIntyre-Morgan, MS, RHIA, FHIMA Director
HIM Manger, Orlando Regional Lucerne*



Are you HIPAA-notized by all of the privacy and security regulations? Or are you just plain HIPAA'ed out?! No matter what your answer is, the April 14th deadline is fast approaching. If you have not already done so, I would urge you to attend one of the AHIMA *Getting Practical with Privacy & Security Seminars*.

Plan to attend one of the seminars today! There is still time to verify what you know, learn something new and find out what you need to do before April 14th. AHIMA has scheduled three sessions in March and one in April. More sessions during 2003 will be announced on

the AHIMA website at www.ahima.org. The seminars are each two and a half days with three dynamic speakers.

The seminars present all-new material on:

- Understanding privacy and its impact on health information management
- Learning the ins and outs of security from experts in the field and how it relates to privacy management
- Ascertaining how to develop HIPAA-compliant policies, procedures, forms, tools and training materials

Each seminar attendee receives a 400-page Privacy and Security Resource Book. The Book contains practice briefs, sample forms, action plans, resource lists and speaker handouts. The Resource Book, along with the faculty of experts, will assist you in becoming a HIPAA expert!

HIPAA

*Linda Noel, M.Ed., RHIA
Corporate Privacy Officer
Orlando Regional Healthcare*



The deadline for compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Standards is less than a month away, April 14. **ARE YOU READY**

Safeguarding Protected Health Information (PHI)

HIPAA requires that we "safe-guard" PHI. All employees are responsible for taking steps to ensure that PHI is protected on a daily basis. Some of the ways we can safeguard and protect PHI are:

- Allow access to records on a "need to know" basis **only**.
- Wear ID badges.
- Limit public access to areas with computer terminals, patient lists and confidential documents.
- Post patient lists, diagnoses, etc. in areas not readily visible to patients and visitors.

- Discard PHI in shred bins when no longer needed.
- Use personal passwords.
- Report breaches of confidentiality to the Corporate Privacy Officer.
- Guard all conversations that contain PHI.

HIPAA also requires that we "mitigate" to the extent practicable any harmful effect that is known of improper use or disclosure of PHI. Mitigation means to relieve a condition or lessen the severity of a situation. The most successful way to mitigate harm from improper use of PHI is education. Sometimes mitigation will require discipline that will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

What Do You Think?

You are working in the ED when you see that a neighbor has just arrived for treatment. You overhear that he will be taken to surgery soon. The neighbor's wife works in another department of the hospital and is a friend of yours. Should you notify her that her husband is in the hospital?

Answer: No! Patients have the right to decide who should know that they are receiving care. This information should be safeguarded and not released to anyone, even a spouse, without consulting the patient first.

FHIMA Proposed Bylaw Changes

*Elizabeth Kelly, RHIA
FHIMA Bylaws Chairman*

Current By Law	Proposed Amendment(s)	Rationale
<p><i>Article III Membership</i></p> <p><i>Section 4. Student Membership</i></p> <p>Any individual who hold student membership in AHIMA and is formally enrolled in a <u>program for Health Information Management</u></p>	<p><i>Article III Membership</i></p> <p><i>Section 4. Student Membership</i></p> <p>Any individual who hold student membership in AHIMA and is formally enrolled in an AHIMA accredited or approved program, including those pending accreditation/approval and selects this state for his</p>	<p>This change will be consistent with the reading of AHIMA bylaws</p>

<p><u>Administrators or Technicians</u> and selects this state for his association membership shall be a student member of FHIMA as long as the student membership in AHIMA continues. A student member may attend business and education meetings of the association. Registration fees are waived, but the student is responsible for payment of fees related to food functions and hand-out materials. A student member shall not be entitled to vote, hold office or serve as a Committee Chairman or to serve as a member of the AHIMA or FHIMA House of Delegates.</p> <p>Student members shall have all rights and privileges of membership, including that of serving on committees in designated student positions with voice but no vote.</p>	<p>association membership shall be a student member of FHIMA as long as the student membership in AHIMA continues. A student member may attend business and education meetings of the association. Registration fees are waived, but the student is responsible for payment of fees related to food functions and hand-out materials. A student member shall not be entitled to vote, hold office or serve as a Committee Chairman or to serve as a member of the AHIMA or FHIMA House of Delegates.</p> <p>Student members shall have all rights and privileges of membership, including that of serving on committees in designated student positions with voice but no vote.</p>	
<p><i>ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS</i></p> <p><i>Section 3. Voting</i></p>	<p><i>ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS</i></p> <p><i>Section 3. Voting Body</i></p>	<p>This change will be</p>

<p><i>Body</i></p> <p>The voting body at all Annual State Conventions shall be the House of Delegates.</p>	<p>The voting body at all Annual State Conventions shall be the House of Delegates.</p> <p>The annual business meeting of the House of Delegates shall be held in conjunction with the state convention of the members whenever possible. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The date, time and method of other meetings may be determined by the Board of Directors or a simple majority of the House of Delegates.</p>	<p>consistent with the reading of AHIMA bylaws.</p>
<p><i>ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS</i></p> <p><i>Section 2. Directors</i></p> <p>There shall be <u>seven (7)</u> Directors.</p> <p>a. The retiring President shall automatically become a Director for one year.</p> <p>b. <u>Three</u> Directors shall be elected for a two-year term each year.</p>	<p><i>ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS</i></p> <p><i>Section 2. Directors</i></p> <p>There shall be five (5) Directors.</p> <p>a. The retiring President shall automatically become a Director for one year.</p> <p>b. Two Directors shall be elected for a two-year term each year.</p> <p>c. The elected Directors shall be assigned annually as Board Liaison to each of the Committee Chairmen .</p>	<p>Reducing organizational structure, reducing expenses at Board Level.</p>





**NEW! FLORIDA SHOTS
DATA EXCHANGE**

FHIMA

Florida Health Information Management Association

HOME
SEARCH
BULLETIN
BOARD

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

FHIMA NEWS

ARTICLES

AHIMA UPDATE

e-Coastlines

AHIMA Update

March / April 2003

FINAL HIPAA SECURITY RULE RELEASED

The final "official" version of the rule was published February 20, and is available at the Federal Register at:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a030220c.html

The Security Standards Final Rule has also been posted on the FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge:

http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/ahima/pub_bok1_017594.html

The AHIMA Policy and Government Relations team has completed its analysis for the final HIPAA security rule published on February 20, 2003. The analysis can be found at:

http://www.ahima.org/dc/analysis_2_26_03.cfm

AHIMA's Hill Day Approaching Fast

Join with your fellow AHIMA members and visit your representatives in Congress at AHIMA Hill Day, scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2003. Registration for appointments ends March 20, 2003. Get your housing and travel plans made now to attend this very important event and build relationships with your members of Congress. Details are available on the AHIMA CoP at:

<http://cop.ahima.org/COP/>



AHIMA 2003 National Election Voting Begins April 14

This year, the Association has moved up the national election process to April. Eligible voters (members with active, senior, and honorary status holding a valid AHIMA credential as of April 4, 2003) can choose between voting online or voting toll free via telephone. Voting begins at 1 a.m. ET on April 14 and continues until 11 p.m. on May 30. You will be permitted to cast only one ballot. Individuals who use both voting methods will have both ballots declared invalid. Biographical details and position statements for each candidate will be available online in AHIMA's Communities of Practice at <http://www.ahima.org>. A special candidate COP will be open beginning March 24. Brief biographies and photos of all the candidates will also be in the May Journal of AHIMA. Mark your calendars today!

AHIMA 2004 Ballot

President-elect

Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA (PA)
Cheryl V. Homan, MBA, RHIA (OH)

Directors

Gail Graham, RHIA (VA)
Anita Hazelwood, MLS, RHIA (LA)
Rosanne Lippert, MHS, RHIA (CA)
Keith Olenik, MA, RHIA, CHP (MO)
Catherine E. Porto, MPA, RHIA (NM)
Denisha M. Torres-Lich, MS, RHIA, LHRM (FL)

Council on Accreditation

RHIA Practitioner

Marianne Mesich Allen, MBA, RHIA (VA)
C. Jeanne Solberg, RHIA (MN)

HIT Educator

Marsha K. Holey, MA, RHIA (MN)
Angela Picard, MEd, RHIA (FL)

Council on Certification

RHIA Practitioner

Winnona Vachon, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P (NH)
Melva D. Visher, MA, RHIA (NY)

HIT Educator

Helen D. Baxter, MA, RHIA (LA)
Nancy Coffman-Kadish, MS, RHIA (IN)

AHIMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**March 10 to March 12**

Seminar - Getting Practical with Privacy and Security, San Diego, CA_

March 17 to March 19

Seminar - Getting Practical with Privacy and Security, New Orleans, LA

March 20 to March 21

Seminar - Achieving Coding Excellence

March 20 - 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM ET

Audio Seminar - Medical Visit Reporting for Hospital Outpatients

March 28

Application Deadline - Grant-in-Aid & Dissertation Assistance Awards

March 28

Application Deadline - Practice Solutions

April 3 - 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM ET

Audio Seminar - Diagnosis Coding for Urinary Sepsis, Septicemia, Bacteremia

April 7 to April 9

Seminar - Getting Practical with Privacy and Security, Scottsdale, AZ

May 30

Application Deadline - FORE Merit Scholarships & Educational Loans

June 13 to June 14

Seminar - Achieving Coding Excellence

June 27

Application Deadline - Practice Solutions

September 26

Application Deadline - Grant-in-Aid & Dissertation Assistance Awards

September 26

Application Deadline - Practice Solutions

October 18 to October 23

2003 AHIMA National Convention and Exhibit

October 31

Application Deadline - Best Practice Awards

December 5

Application Deadline - Practice Solutions

October 9, 2004 to October 14, 2004

2004 AHIMA National Convention and Exhibit

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](#).
