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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

INFORMATIONAL MANAGEMENT NAVIGATING THE C'S OF CHANGE

Jacque Jones, RHIA



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There are several C's our profession strives to learn about...CLASSIFICATION systems in the form of APC's if your work is in the acute care. (I know many of us are feverishly working to learn the categorization as it relates to reimbursement.) But the C's I'd like to concentrate on are: COMMUNITY and CREDIBILITY.

COMMUNITY

Webster defines a COMMUNITY as "fellowship; a group of people having similar interests; people living in a particular district." AHIMA's vision of COMMUNITY is all of those concepts but the COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (e.g. COP) touted is merely a framework. The important element of this COMMUNITY is the individual member.

AHIMA shared the new COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE environment at this summer's Team Talks. Mario Perez presented an overview at the FHIMA Leadership Meeting on August 25, 2000. Each regional president (or representative) leaves the workshop with a soft copy (electronic) of the COP. We hope each of you will take a look and reflect on HOW BEST THIS TOOL WILL BENEFIT YOU.

In any work setting, we are often asked to produce "expert opinions." The COP gives you a forum, an environment,

and the means to "tap" others with the knowledge you seek. It does require some commitment on YOUR PART. Your AHIMA member number will get you in, but if you are not currently "on-line", you'll need a plan to get on-line. (Remember that many geographic communities have libraries with Internet access if you do not have a computer. If you have a computer but can't afford the monthly cost of an ISP (e.g. Internet Service Provider), there are some free ISP's out there.

COP will be valuable if you gain value from it. Kind of like good friends, great staff, "happy physicians", committed managers, and impressed administrators. Often the key to the value is any relationship is YOU.

Please watch for AHIMA breaking news on for dates of COP availability. And remember, getting on-line whether at home or at work will provide you access to more pertinent and timely information related to your field of practice.

CREDIBILITY

The second C topic CREDIBILITY as it relates to AHIMA's Image Marketing Campaign. The target groups receiving information about the profession are: CEO's, CIO's, CCO's, CFO's and Human Resource Managers.

AHIMA has also launched 4 NEW WEB SITES to help employers understand health information. The web sites target a practical setting in the following areas:

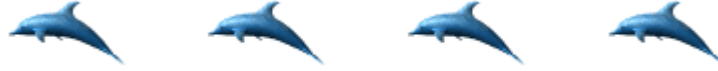
- ▶ Hospitals and integrated delivery systems
- ▶ Physician Practices
- ▶ Ambulatory Centers
- ▶ Managed Care Organizations.

The sites include information on key issues: Coding, Compliance, Computerized Records, Data Integrity, Information Security, and Best Practices. Also available are sample job descriptions, qualifications checklist and the value of hiring certified people.

This CAMPAIGN is designed to PUSH information out into the work place, but its success can only be qualified by YOU. For HIM professionals to gain from this campaign, your actions and commitment, your ability to be part of the team, and your communication skills are critical. Recognition comes to those who demonstrate results, those who are passionate and positive, and those who strive to be the best. This campaign is a vehicle of sorts... but it needs a DRIVER. (Please give me a call if you need any help or feel the need for a mentor to assist you in getting back behind the wheel!)

I encourage the membership to remember that the Board of Directors is available for any questions or concerns you

may have. The addresses and phone numbers were published (for the last time) in the last issue of Coastlines. Remember that this is the first issue of "e-Coastlines". If there is a need for a paper copy, PLEASE contact Lori Lucas at (941) 597-1751.





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Mid Year Conference - 2001

Surviving Change: Come Join Our Tribal Council

Dora Cacciatore, RHIT

Date:

February 2-3, 2001

Place:

Holiday Inn Select
Orlando International Airport
5750 T.G. Lee Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32822
407-851-6400

Some topics include:

- ▶ Infectious Disease
- ▶ Wound Management
- ▶ Coding
- ▶ HIPAA
- ▶ ICD0 Tumor Registry
- ▶ Transcription-Voice Recognition
- ▶ Stress Management

Registration Fees:

\$125 Full Registration
\$ 85 One Day Registration



Room Rates:

Single/Double - \$92

For more information, please contact Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA at fhima@naples.infi.net or (941) 597-1751.

FHIMA ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2001

Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA

Date:

June 19-22, 2001

Place:

[Caribe Royale Resort Suites & Villas](#)

8101 World Center Drive

Orlando, FL 32821

407-238-8000

**Rates:**

Single/Double - \$129

Standard King - \$139

King Deluxe - \$149

Executive Suite - \$269

Villas - \$269

For more information, please contact Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA at fhima@naples.infi.net or (941) 597-1751.

**FHIMA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Ashlyn Dellenger, RHIA

The FHIMA annual Leadership Conference was held on August 24 and 25 at the Caribe Royal Resort in Orlando. The meeting was well attended by the FHIMA Board of Directors and the Regional Presidents and President-elects.

After a great welcome by Jacquie Jones, RHIA and a trivia ice breaker, it was down to business. Jacquie Jones, RHIA, Mario Perez, RHIT and Pam Rollins, RHIA, educated the group on the results from the AHIMA Team Talks that took place on July 14, 2000, in Washington, D.C. One of the biggest proposed bylaw changes discussed was that of removing the 'state' from Component 'State' Organization. This would enable members to decide which regional association they would like to belong to, not necessarily the region or the state that they live in. Look for more discussion on this topic in

the near future.

Ashlyn Dellenger, RHIA and Sharol Pausal Noblejas, RHIA, discussed e-Coastlines and the resurrected SHAPER program, respectively.

Saturday, August 25th began with Jacquie Jones, RHIA, reviewing the FHIMA strategic plan. In addition, interactive discussion was held on which topics would be beneficial for our Mid-Year and Annual Conventions, and reviewing the benefits of the House of Delegates.

Mario Perez, III, RHIT, discussed the "How to Run Your Association" manual. This manual was developed from brainstorming sessions at a previous Leadership Conference. Consensus was that the manual would become an invaluable guide for the Regional Presidents and president-elects.

The grand finale was the presentation by Dr. Abby Lynn Ross, who spoke on "Leading with Power and Purpose". This dynamic presentation assisted the attendees on how to take charge and gain acceptance and assistance in their roles. Her presentation was greatly interactive and motivating.

All in all the Leadership Conference was a huge success and will no doubt lead to the continues success of FHIMA.



(L to R, Ashlyn Dellenger, Director, Pat Schnering, Director, Liz Hurst, Director, Coleen Buchinsky, Director, Pam Rollins, Chief Delegate and Kelly Wilson, Director)



(L to R, Lori Eytel Lucas, Executive Coordinator, Mario Perez,

President-Elect and Jacquie Jones, President)

FHIMA MEMBER - CHERYL ISOLA 
RECEIVES AHIMA FORE SCHOLARSHIP

Theresa Reynolds, AHIMA

Chicago, August 25 - The American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) Foundation of Research and Education (FORE) awarded Cheryl Isola with a FORE Scholarship. Cheryl is pursuing a degree in Health Information Management (HIM) at the University of Central Florida.

AHIMA and FORE are committed to providing HIM professionals with the resources they need to increase their skills and knowledge in the HIM field. FORE's Annual Scholarship Awards provide students pursuing careers in HIM and Health Information Technology (HIT) with financial assistance to attain their degrees. These annual awards also encourage and support members who are working to advance the HIM and HIT profession through continuing education at the graduate level.

FORE received over 120 applications from students qualified to receive graduate and undergraduate scholarships. This is a 25% increase from students qualified applications in 1999. In 2000, a record number of scholarships were awarded - 9 graduate and 27 undergraduate.

Created in 1962, FORE is a separately incorporated affiliate organization founded and managed by AHIMA. FORE provides an infrastructure of knowledge, research, and education in the field of HIM. This year's FORE Scholarships were underwritten by generous grants from: Aspen System Corporation, Barbara Thomas Enterprises, Inc., The Esther Mayo Shepard Foundation, DVI, The FORE Foundation, MC Strategies, Inc., St. Anthony Publishing and Smart Corporation.



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APC'S AND YOU... A CODING PERSPECTIVE

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Kristin Hodkinson RHIT, CPC, APC Coordinator, Orlando Regional Healthcare



By now you have been flooded with information regarding HCFA's implementation of APC's (Ambulatory Payment Classification,) unless of course you've been coding from a cave! I consider myself to be a coder at heart. Throughout my HIM career, I have always gravitated towards the "coding end of things." Hence, my attempt to clear the air surrounding APC's and their effect on Coding. First, a little background.....

Back in the early 1980's, the Gov't ordered HCFA to come up with a cost containment system, out of which came DRG's (Diagnostic Related Groups) for our inpatient services. HCFA then looked to 3M Health Information to help in the creation of an outpatient cost containment system, OPPOS (Outpatient Payment Prospective System.) In the late 1980's early 1990's came the APG (Ambulatory Patient Group.) The APC is actually a modification of the APG.

We currently have over 700 APC groupings, which has more than doubled in size from the original proposal of 345. See a trend???? We can surely expect to see more additions/deletions along the way. The grouping features consist of items that were both clinically similar and uses similar amounts of resources. In contrast to the DRG system where only one DRG is assigned, an outpatient service claim can have multiple APC assignments.

The "driver" for the APC is the CPT/HCPCS code assignment-thus be prepared for even more heads to turn toward your coding department! Emphasis on facility coding has typically been on the inpatient side of things; hiring of experienced, trained coding personnel who could accurately assign correct DRG's. Knowingly or not, it has been in the air that inpatient coding held a higher prestige, so to speak, and everyone wanted to learn and be trained. However, with APC's, outpatient coding is now being seen as extremely challenging, requiring coder's with years of experience with CPT/HCPCS coding as well as correct modifier assignments.

Of course, APC's are having a major impact on coding, but not only coding is affected. Registration, ancillary departments, pharmacy, chargemaster, financial, and billing are other areas that have had to do extensive review of their policy and procedures as well. What can we do as coders to stay on top of these APC's? Review and practice: CPT/HCPCS coding including guidelines, and correct modifier usage. Current information can be viewed at www.hcfa.gov. Most importantly, do not hesitate to ask questions!! Remember, this is new for all of us and will require training and practice to gain a thorough understanding.

Submitted by: Kristin Hodkinson RHIT, CPC

APC Coordinator
Orlando Regional Healthcare
Khodkins@orhs.org
407/841-5111 x8731



**An Interview with
Jeanne Tucker, MA, RHIA**

Daniel G. Land, RHIT, CCS

The distinguished career of Jeanne H. Tucker, MA, RRA, spanning five decades, is marked by great accomplishments on state, national, and international levels. Her career in healthcare began in 1956 as a "pink lady" for West Orange Memorial Hospital in Winter Garden, FL. The administrator was so impressed with her devotion and competence that he extended an offer of employment within the medical records department. Mrs. Tucker, a self-described "bored country housewife", accepted. The ensuing years were spent learning about the challenges of medical record science. With the departure of the medical records director, the administrator asked Mrs. Tucker to fill the position. (Her first official act was to clean the ditto machine, which, by mistake, was done with ether rather than alcohol-needless to say, a very heady experience!) Her acceptance was coupled with a self-directe

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AHIMA Image Marketing Campaign



Over the course of the past twelve months, you've heard a great deal about the AHIMA's image marketing campaign - aimed at advancing HIM professionals in the healthcare marketplace. Now the first of the campaign's tactics is in place: new employer-focused Web sites. Introduced at AHIMA's July Leadership Conference, these Web sites deliver a strong message - skilled and certified HIM professionals are always the right choice for a wide spectrum of health information positions. To view this new and exciting web site, [Click Here.](#)

HIPAA Analysis

AHIMA provides an analysis of the HIPAA Electronic Transactions and Code sets. The long anticipated final rule for healthcare electronic transactions and codesets was published August 17, 2000 in the Federal Register. [View Analysis](#)

To obtain a copy of HIPAA's final rule for Health Insurance Reform: Standards for Electronic Transactions visit the [Federal Register Online](#) and select Thursday, August 17, 2000.

AHIMA Interactive Learning Campus

Ready for school? AHIMA's Interactive Learning Campus is an online, virtual training facility available to you via the Internet. AHIMA's campus has all the essential qualities of a real campus, without the

limitations of geographical location, physical buildings, or predefined schedules.

Hit the books at the [Interactive Learning Campus!](#)



Mark your calendar - HIM Week November 5-11, 2000. Need gift ideas visit the [AHIMA Online store](#).

Contacting AHIMA

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

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