



19 Aviation Road
Albany, NY 12205-1142

(518) 435-0422
Fax (518) 435-0457

www.nyhima.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Only three more months remain until the 75th Annual Conference. I hope you have had a chance to review the program for this year. We think we have something for everyone and so much is going on in healthcare! To review the program, please visit the NYHIMA Web site

and open the 'Annual Conference' tab, read the March Annual Conference Preview Issue of **Perspectives Online**, or open the email invitation you received earlier this month.

We are just back from the AHIMA Winter Team Talks and Hill Day and I have to say it was an exciting time to be in Washington, D.C. Tracy D'Errico, RHIA, President-Elect, Diane Cohen, RHIA, Legislative Director and I attended, along with Brenda Embry, MPA RHIA CHP, Monroe Community College and her student, Kim White. We timed it perfectly, or should I say AHIMA did, for the signing of the historic Healthcare bill on Tuesday. I feel energized after coming back and excited to be in HIM. It is always interesting to do something totally different from your daily work routine.

The AHIMA initiatives we took to Washington this year were the following:

1. Under Health Information Management Workforce, we asked for our legislators to introduce and enact the AHIMA developed "Allied Health and Health Informatics Investment Act," to enable congress to provide funding for allied health programs including EHR curricula. Currently, most of the funding for Allied Health education in Public Health Title VII has been eliminated except for physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. There is a significant lack of EHR core competencies and funding in Allied Health Programs which make up 60% of the current healthcare workforce.

2. Our second request was for a champion of a Dear Colleague Letter to the Bureau of Labor to clarify the category for Health Information Management Professionals. Currently, we are classified under clerks and Health Managers. We need to be able to separate these definitions in order to get accurate counts of the workforce needs related specifically to the Health Information Management Professionals for funding our training and education programs.
3. Finally, we thanked our legislators for their support of the AHIMA recommendations regarding the Administrative Simplification Operating Rules: Support Language Contained in the Senate Version of HealthCare Reform, HR 3590, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." We did ask that they keep in mind one more improvement which would dramatically reduce the amount of time it takes to make a change to the current HIPAA transaction standards. Currently this process takes up to 8 years, which is way too long when technology changes so rapidly.

We hope the message gets across and we were able to make an impact. Our next goal is to plan our own New York State Hill Day. If anyone is interested in legislation and wants to get involved, please contact our new Legislative Director, Diane Cohen, RHIA. Diane has recently replaced Toni Teumer, MS Ed RHIA CHP in this role. On behalf of the NYHIMA Board of Directors, we wish Toni all the best and thank her for all her hard work and assistance during the transition. We congratulate Toni on her promotion at work and certainly understand the work-life balance.

Julie L. Brucker, RHA CCS

IN THE NEWS

On the State Front

From the IPRO Front

The quarterly meeting of the IPRO Provider Relations Committee was held on March 2, 2010. In addition to NYHIMA, there were representatives from the hospital community and professional associations, IPRO and the New York State Department of Health and Office of Mental Health.

Medicare/Federal Activities

IPRO has been working under the 9th SOW since August 1, 2009. Progress continues on web-based reporting in looking at fistula rates for ESRD patients, diabetics receiving annual testing for kidney disease, and diabetics with hypertension receiving medication for delaying progress to dialysis.

JENY, the Joint Effort of New York, is a web application to allow password or non-password protected collaborative work on patient readiness for discharge with appropriate discharge plans.

Medicaid/State Activities

- IPRO continues to work with several health centers across New York on improvements that will allow the centers to apply for medical home accreditation status under NCQA.
- The final report on the State Comptroller's Office audit on readmissions is being prepared by the State Comptroller. The State Comptroller is looking at billing regulations for readmissions and whether or not DOH is following the regulations

The next Provider Relations Committee meeting will be held on June 8, 2010, following IPRO's Annual Meeting at the LaGuardia Marriott.

*Submitted by Cindy M. Boester, MS RHIA [HIMANYC]
NYHIMA IPRO Liaison*

SPARCS Update

Expanded Outpatient Data Collection: SPARCS continues to work on the process to expand collection of outpatient data. In 2006, Section 2816 of Public Health Law was amended to expand outpatient data collection for all Article 28 outpatient clinics to report to SPARCS. The basis for expansion is to provide the opportunity to conduct financial analysis and benchmarking of outpatient pricing methodologies. SPARCS plans to differentiate services primarily based on revenue codes for ambulatory surgery, emergency room and other outpatient visits. SPARCS has created submission type flags which indicate facility type and services provided. The expanded outpatient data collection will include both hospitals and diagnostic and treatment centers. They also plan to complete a draft Data Dictionary with the addition of "Outpatient." SPARCS will continue to hold

discussions with facilities, vendors, and associations.

Source of Payment Typology: SPARCS determined that their payer data element was inadequate in assessing the various types of payer and insurance mechanisms. In order to align payer information with existing insurance structures and programs, SPARCS has added a new source of payment variable developed by the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC). The new "Source of Payment Typology" data element will be used by the Department of Health for rate-setting purposes. In October 2008, letters were sent to all SPARCS Coordinators announcing the change. SPARCS started accepting these new data elements July 1, 2009, and all facilities were originally expected to completely transition to the new Source of Payment Typology by December 31, 2009. SPARCS extended the deadline for this transition to July 1, 2010. SPARCS announced that there will be no exceptions to this date. All submitted SPARCS records must contain, at a minimum, the "SoP I" data element as of July 1, 2010; otherwise, records will fail. For additional information, see the link for the original SPARCS letter announcing this change at:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/sparcs/x12-837/2009sparcschanges.pdf>.

*Submitted by:
Cindy Richards, RHIT [AdHIMA] / Carla Novak [AdHIMA]
SPARCS Professional Practice Liaisons*

Physician Practice Liaison Update

"Are Physicians Using Smartphones?"

A 2009 report from Manhattan Research indicated that 64% of physicians are utilizing a Smartphone. One popular application used among physicians is "Epocrates". This drug and disease reference application is used to look up drug interactions and side effects. This application can also be used to determine if a patient's health insurance will reimburse the medication prescribed and even indicate the co-payment.

With the number of medical applications on the increase, these apps have the potential to change the way healthcare is delivered. According to a MDsearch Smartphone Survey, 53% of physician respondents indicated that they own a Smartphone and 63% are using a mobile medical application. Drug reference apps (such as Epocrates) were cited most often in the survey; however, other apps used are medical calculators, clinical resource applications, medical dictionary applications and apps for patient scheduling. A small percentage also reported using mobile applications for e-prescribing and electronic health records.

Among the MDsearch survey, twice as many physicians use an iPhone as compared to a BlackBerry device. In addition, physicians are using the following electronic gadgets:

- 60% use a GPS system
- 48% use an iPod
- 38% use a pager
- 7% own a Kindle

Another interesting statistic is the percentage of respondents who own a Smartphone (53%) also work in facilities or practices that have implemented an Electronic Health Record (53%).

Submitted by:

*Maureen Campo, RHIT CCS-P [LIHIMA] and
Janet Zwergel, RHIA CCS-P CPC CPEHR [LIHIMA]
Physician Practice Liaisons*

Source: 'iSnare.com'

AHIMA NEWS AND INFORMATION

Welcome to Alan Dowling, AHIMA's New CEO

At Team Talks in March, we met Alan F. Dowling, Ph.D., the new AHIMA CEO and it was quite an honor. We learned he has roots on Long Island - another fellow New Yorker! He was very impressive, and I really got the feeling he will be good for the organization.

In a recent meeting with Dr. David Blumenthal, the Director for the Office of National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), Dr. Dowling stated he described Health Information Managers as the Operations/Privacy experts needed to support the implementation of the electronic health record. Dr. Dowling used the opportunity to increase awareness of AHIMA and its membership, explaining that HIM professionals work hand-in-hand with Information Systems staff to make sure any electronic health record system implementation functions properly after install and contains all the safeguards necessary.

Dr. Dowling emphasized to those present at the Team Talks that, when asked to assist with EHR implementation, we need to step up to the plate and accept the invitation. Prepare yourself. If there are things about the EHR you are not knowledgeable on, you should investigate and educate yourself now. Take a class and brush up on Information Technology areas you may be weak in so you are prepared. Last, but not least, help each other and reach out for help when you need it. AHIMA has a wealth of information and tools available on its website. Keep up-to-date with meaningful use and read what is going on with the Office of National Coordinator for Health IT at: <http://healthit.hhs.gov>. These are important times. We do not want to be left behind.

Submitted by Julie L. Brucker, RHIA CCS [AdHIMA]

NYHIMA NEWS AND INFORMATION

On the Local Front

Central New York HIMA

We are very busy preparing for CNYHIMA's Annual meeting which will be held on May 14, 2010 at the DoubleTree Inn in East Syracuse. Our theme will be "HIM: We're Under One Umbrella but Wearing Many Hats". We will be encouraging our members to design "their" hat that best defines what they do. I have a feeling this will be a very interesting event! Last year's theme was "Our Futures are So Bright We Need Shades!" Our members certainly showed their creative side in designing some really unique shades! I personally can't wait to see what everyone comes up with in 2010! Our goal is to provide great educational programs, create an atmosphere that allows us to network with our peers and have fun at the same time.

As of March 23, 2010 we have 203 members. Our goal is to have at least 225 members before our annual meeting. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Marc Maller present for us at our March meeting. Dr. Maller did a presentation on the MOLST form and dementia. We had over 20 members in attendance and the program was enjoyed by all that attended.

Karen Fabrizio, RHIA and Patricia Thomases, RHIT have been very busy working closely with NYHIMA preparing the NYHIMA Annual Conference at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, New York beginning June 6 and ending June 9. We are looking forward to having this year's conference in our neck of the woods. Hope to see you all there!

*Submitted by Peggy Presbyla, RHIA CHP
President*

HIMA of Northern New York

Northern New York HIMA held their winter meeting at St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center on December 11, 2009. This meeting was hosted by Mari Pirie-St. Pierre, RHIA, HIM Director at SLPC. We enjoyed a "working meeting" where all members were able to participate in reviewing and updating our local Procedures and Bylaws. Education was provided in regards to "APR-DRG Fundamentals for Coders."

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23rd at St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg.

*Submitted by Leslie Mills, RHIT
President-Elect*

2010 Annual Conference



The 2010 conference is hosted by the Central New York HIMA, June 6-9, at the Turning Stone Resort • Casino in Verona. The theme, 'Dealing with the Many Facets of HIM for 75 Years', celebrates the accomplishments of the association since its founding in 1935.

Conference participant emails were sent at the beginning of April, and contained the link to the online registration information and form. Get your registration in soon to take advantage of the early bird deadline. See you in Verona!!

On the e-HIM Front

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the annual Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) meeting. It was an amazing convention with many wonderful educational sessions offered and a very large number of vendors there as exhibitors. The week started out with some workshops on a number of different topic areas which were separate from the actual convention. I attended parts of a workshop that focused on technology, how it is being used and implemented in healthcare.

The convention itself started with the Keynote by the CEO of Sprint who spoke about how wireless technology is playing a role in Healthcare. David Blumenthal also spoke as part of the keynote presentation but I was not able to attend that portion of it. This was a busy day as there were a number of educational sessions taking place as well. This day focused on government healthcare and the way technology is changing the processes. I was able to attend several sessions during the day, meet a number of the attendees and spend some time on the exhibit floor. There were exhibitors there for just about anything you could need for your facility.

There was another full day of educational sessions that covered a number of different topics, and I focused primarily on the Electronic Health Record in relation to physicians' offices. The next day focused on topics like Medical Banking and other related topics. This was the last day to visit the exhibitors as the floor closed. There was also an event at the end of the day at the Georgia Aquarium, which was a lot of fun to attend.

The last day, which was a shorter day, closed with a keynote in the morning by Dr. Sanjay Gupta interviewing Mr. Markopoulos about fraud detection which is becoming such a big problem. The day ended with a Keynote delivered by Captain Sullenburger, the pilot of the flight that landed in the Hudson River. He was discussing how there are so

many medical errors being made and something really needs to be done. He discussed about developing checklists to follow for many different situations for error prevention.

As stated, it was a very informative convention with educational sessions on topics related to technology. There were also numerous events and many different receptions for the organizations represented, including AHIMA, which I also attended. I was actually able to meet many of the AHIMA staff. The convention next year will be in Orlando and I am hoping to attend this convention as well.

*Submitted by Nicole Miller, RHIA [HIMAWNY]
NYHIMA e-HIM Officer*