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Health Information Exchanges Hold the Key to Unlocking Value-Based Care and Offering Insight on Progress

Journal of AHIMA examines the problems related to value-based care requirements and the role of EHRs in solving them

CHICAGO - November 22, 2019 - Electronic health records (EHRs) play a critical role in providing the required data for some value-based care programs. But variations in EHR systems, vendors, and healthcare organizations make it increasingly difficult to access reporting and compliance information mandated by some value-based care programs.

In the article [Are We There Yet? Evaluating Whether EHRs are Meeting the Needs of Value Based Care](#), in the November-December issue of the *Journal of AHIMA*, Mary Butler examines the complexities of managing data requirements for value-based care programs and the role of EHRs and HIM professionals in the process of providing greater interoperability within health information exchanges (HIEs).

Experts say that value-based care requires reporting and analysis based on the integration of multiple types of data, including EHRs. Additionally, EHRs provide the ability to conduct predictive analytics and clinical decision support, which also supports value-based care.

HIEs are integral to this process, according to the article. "Through their interaction with regulations, health information exchanges, physicians, vendors, and IT and finance departments, HIM holds the key to unlocking value-based care and offering insight on how it's progressing," Butler writes.

Experts say that HIEs are a vehicle for delivering quality-based care since they are able to cover more individuals in a region and exchange more meaningful data than hospitals whose EHRs can't communicate.

"HIM professionals have a unique opportunity to use their expertise with EHRs to advance the effectiveness of HIEs," said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE. "As we embrace value-based care programs, it is vital to have leaders in HIM to effectively manage and share required data."

HIEs address many of the challenges related to value-based care requirements including:

- Health systems that use more than one EHR vendor across various care settings
- Lack of governance around documentation procedures
- Different quality indicators for different payers
- Coding to reflect social determinants of health

Also in this issue

The Future of Coding

According to a roundtable of coding experts and health information management (HIM) professionals assembled in June, the implementation of ICD-11 will depend on several factors including whether or not there is a Clinical Modification. ICD-11 was adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in June 2019 and is designed to be fully electronic and comprehensive. No implementation date has been set for the U.S.

In the article, ["The Future of Coding: A Report from AHIMA's Coding Thought Leadership Council."](#) Anne Zender, MA, senior director, strategic communications for AHIMA, summarizes the takeaways from the discussion including points related to:

- Whether or not computer-assisted coding systems have lived up to their promise
- The need for more robust educational systems to support coding
- The need for employers to better understand credentials to improve job search outcomes

- The role humans will play as the coding process becomes increasingly driven by technology

Read these articles and more in the November-December of the Journal of AHIMA or online at journal.ahima.org

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for best practices in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide, www.ahima.org