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New Research Explores Health Information Exchange Innovations, Patient-Generated Data, Classification Algorithm

CHICAGO – October 25, 2018 – The Fall 2018 issue of *Perspectives in Health Information Management*, the online research journal of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), contains a first-person account of the need for formal mechanisms to deliver clinically relevant information to clinicians, as well as a study developing and testing a health insurance literacy model.

Literature Review Examines Relevancy of Computable Phenotypes

Authors of the literature review “Computable Phenotypes: Standardized Ways to Classify People Using Electronic Health Record Data” explore the use of electronic health record (EHR) data to classify people. The computable phenotype (CP) provides a standard algorithm—with inclusion and exclusion criteria—so health information management (HIM) professionals, database administrators, clinicians, and others can construct similar database queries that fit their own source databases. CPs are algorithms that identify a set of patients with a specific set of observable and measurable traits. The authors anticipate that CPs will soon be part of the toolkit that all HIM professionals use for coding, reporting, managing, and sharing clinical information.

The authors of this study recognize that computable phenotypes are growing in importance beyond their original use to establish patient cohorts for clinical trials with EHR data. “We are anticipating that HIM professionals will soon be encountering computable phenotypes in their work,” said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE. “Their use will be important because they can determine treatment eligibility and support assessments of the quality of coding, among other possible clinical, research, public health, and business uses.” [Read the full article.](#)

The fall issue also features the following articles:

Patient-generated Data: A Double-edged Sword

By Elizabeth Lerner Papautsky, PhD

“My father died in the critical care unit as a result of blood clots in his lungs after residents reintubated him when he had a panic attack in the middle of the night. The information that he had a low platelet count as a side effect of a cancer drug he was taking as part of a clinical trial had fallen through the cracks every time new clinicians came into his room,” writes the author, a research assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. “Although I had reminded them of this information daily to ensure that he received regular infusions as prescribed by his oncologist, the clinicians on the night shift did not consider this information.” The author calls for a formal solution that should “take into account the theoretical understanding of biases and decision-making processes underlying clinicians’ use” of information. [Read more.](#)

Using Health Information Exchange to Support Community-Based Innovations

By Saira N. Haque, PhD, MHSA; Shellery Ebron, MSPH; Robert Bailey; and Barry Blumenthal, MD

Health information exchange (HIE) involves sharing information across organizations. Effective HIE gives providers a comprehensive view of the patient that can improve the accuracy of health information to support clinical care. Researchers at RTI International sought to understand how grantees funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Health Care Innovation Awards used HIE for community resource planning. They also sought to identify barriers and facilitators influencing the use of HIE within these interventions. They analyzed three years of data collected during the grant program, including progress reports, site visits, and notes from telephone interviews. They also uploaded documentary data into qualitative analysis software, coded the data according to a literature-based codebook, and identified themes relevant to interoperability as well as barriers and facilitators for HIE. Coders achieved a final kappa of 0.8, suggesting excellent interrater reliability. [Read more.](#)

Selection of an Electronic Health Record System for a Community-based Integrative Oncology Center

By Molly Stillwell, MA; Kristina Gowin, DO; and Eiko Klimant, MD

This case report describes an integrative oncology center’s selection of an EHR system. The goal is to provide a process framework for community integrative cancer care centers engaging in the selection of an oncology-focused system. A core team of experts from the practice assessed needs, held formative meetings, identified a set of candidate vendors to present, and held summative assessment meetings to select the product. Three finalists were evaluated utilizing a bubble-sorting algorithm, and one vendor was selected. The authors note that EHR selection requires thoughtful integration of clinic and patient needs, service population, and the changing healthcare system. Future studies are needed to establish formal yet adaptable electronic health record selection processes. [Read more.](#)

Toward a Health Insurance Literacy Model: What Do Young Consumers Know about Insurance?

By Alexander McLeod, PhD, and Omolola Adepaju, PhD

In this study, researchers at Texas State University developed and tested a health insurance literacy model. Using a previously validated health insurance literacy measure, they crafted a predictive model and tested the effects of its constructs among young consumers. Data were collected using an online survey of college students at a major public university in the southern United States. Although students' ability to choose health insurance did not predict healthcare utilization, their ability to compare and manage health insurance strongly predicted utilization. Knowing how to compare, choose, and manage health insurance predicted a substantial proportion of variance in the structural model ($R^2 = 0.64$). Improving young consumers' ability to choose health insurance policies will have a strong impact on efforts to improve health insurance utilization. [Read more.](#)

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Perspectives in Health Information Management is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, referred to by professors, professionals, public officials, industry leaders, and policy-makers. Since 2004, it has been one of the most credible and respected journals of the HIM industry and is referenced in notable indices such as PubMed Central (PMC), the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), and Google Scholar. Learn more about the submission guidelines and the manuscript review process. www.perspectives.ahima.org

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 high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA is advancing informatics, data analytics, and information governance to achieve the goal of providing expertise to ensure trusted information for healthcare. www.ahima.org