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**Awareness and Use Growing with Information Governance**

*AHIMA's third IG survey showcases*

*key recommendations for organizations seeking to transform through IG*

**LOS ANGELES – Oct. 10, 2017** – Information governance (IG) is becoming a recognized initiative in healthcare and adoption of IG practices is on the rise, according to a new survey published by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). The 2017 IG survey shows results from more than 1,500 healthcare professionals from across the United States and was announced today during AHIMA's 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibit & Convention.

In the survey, 53 percent of respondents said they have IG practices in place or recognize the need for IG. Additionally, 14 percent of respondents have initiated an organization-wide IG program, and 18 percent have IG-related projects underway. Organizations with IG practices are gaining a competitive edge by using information as a strategic asset for better decision making, risk reduction, cost avoidance and streamlined operations. They are also implementing their IG programs using varying levels of resources, tools and expertise available to them in order to move their IG initiatives forward.

“Our goal with this survey was to collect details on successes, obstacles and opportunities from healthcare professionals who are utilizing IG programs,” said AHIMA interim CEO Pamela Lane, MS, RHIA. “We are thrilled that 85 percent of respondents are familiar with IG and 74 percent are familiar with AHIMA’s definition of IG. Our analysis shows that we have made progress in this arena and will continue to offer services for even more growth.”

In addition to results and key findings, the survey includes recommendations for healthcare professionals who are looking to implement an IG program. Top suggestions include:

- **Gain executive support:** Make a case for IG that can demonstrate how IG can help meet your organization’s goals and address its challenges

- **Assemble a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders:** Group members will be responsible for planning, measuring, reevaluating and leading the IG charge
- **Develop an IG roadmap:** Set realistic expectations and goals that will improve your organization's business and clinical processes. Aim for the highest return on investment.

Another key finding in the 2017 IG survey suggests data governance is the top priority for respondents in terms of funding an IG program. Beginning with data governance will allow organizations to build a strong foundation in preparation for a robust IG program.

"It is important for organizations to remember information governance is not a project; it is an ongoing program and a continuous, repeated practice," said Lane. "As a leader in IG, AHIMA stands ready to provide guidance and resources for those seeking to implement an IG program."

AHIMA has developed a number of resources including the IG Adoption Model (IGAM™) for Healthcare and a Version 3 of the Information Governance Toolkit, sharing best practices, case studies, and resources for success in implementing IG within an organization.

For additional information on AHIMA's products related to IG, specifically IGAdvisor®, visit [www.IGIQ.org](http://www.IGIQ.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 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](http://www.ahima.org)