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New Research Highlights Need for Advanced Disaster Recovery Plans

CHICAGO – July 26, 2018 – The Summer 2018 issue of *Perspectives in Health Information Management*, the online research journal of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), delves into the latest research on topics such as malpractice cases involving allergy information in EHRs as well as an examination the effect of the utilization of telepharmacy on rural hospitals' access to pharmaceutical services.

Ransomware Research Highlights the Need for Advance Planning

Authors of the study "Ransomware in Healthcare Facilities: A Harbinger of the Future?" conducted a literature review to examine the extent of recent ransomware infections in healthcare settings, the risk liabilities and costs associated with such infections, and possible risk mitigation tactics. The authors concluded that healthcare facilities have become a significant target for these attacks, and they make recommendations for organizations to prepare, including creating a disaster recovery plan and adequately educating their users on information security.

[Read the full article.](#)

"Cyberattacks on personal health information in healthcare facilities pose significant threats on many levels," said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE. "This research emphasizes the importance of establishing robust disaster recovery plans to prevent interruptions in patient care."

The summer issue also features the following articles:

A Case Study of Electronic Medical Record Templates for Fibromyalgia Management

by Lesley M. Arnold, MD

The management of fibromyalgia patients in the primary care setting can be challenging for many reasons. Electronic medical record (EMR) templates may improve care of fibromyalgia patients and make more efficient use of clinician time. The researcher found that the use of

EMR templates and incorporation of easily accessible treatment guidelines and diagnostic information may help facilitate care of fibromyalgia patients by guiding the clinician in early diagnosis, multimodal treatment approaches, and tracking of progress. Providing a framework and protocols for fibromyalgia has the potential for significant improvement in overall care.

[Read more.](#)

Integrating Social Determinants of Health into the Electronic Health Records of a Large Health System: A Qualitative Perspective

by Ana M. Palacio, MD, MPH; Maritza Suarez, MD; Yanisa del Toro, MD; David Seo, MD, PhD; Desiree Garay, MD, MSPH; Denisse Pareja, MD, MSPH; and Leonardo Tamariz, MD, MPH

Social determinants of health (SDH) influence clinical outcomes. Researchers explored barriers and facilitators for the integration of SDH into the electronic health record (EHR) system of a large diverse healthcare system in South Florida through interviews with key stakeholders. All agreed that the process of collecting and including data on SDH in the EHR should not affect healthcare delivery, and they highlighted the importance of linking the SDH survey with clinical outcomes and of having resources and processes in place to address social risks. The authors conclude that collection of social risk factors and integration with the EHR within a large health system is feasible if there is buy-in from the health system leadership.

[Read more.](#)

Malpractice Cases Involving Allergy Information in Electronic Health Records: Implications for Safer Systems

by Maxim Topaz, PhD, RN; Adam Schaffer, MD; Kenneth Lai, MSc; Zfania Tom Korach, MD; Jonathan Einbinder, MD; and Li Zhou, MD, PhD

Researchers at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Health Hospital analyzed a large database of medical malpractice claims, focusing on allergy cases involving EHR systems that resulted in patient harm. "Although we identified only a small number of cases in which allergy information systems were involved in malpractice, most of the cases resulted in medium or high patient harm," the authors write. "Our results highlight the critical need for safer and more interoperable allergy health information systems."

[Read more.](#)

Prediabetes Case Identification: Accuracy of an Automated Electronic Health Record Algorithm

by Ana M. Palacio, MD, MPH; Denisse Pareja, MD, MPH; Willy Valencia-Rodrigo, MD; and Jason R. Dahn, PhD

The prevalence of prediabetes continues to grow in the United States. Researchers wanted to determine the accuracy of a population health approach that applies an algorithm to electronic health data to identify patients with undiagnosed prediabetes. They conducted a cross-sectional

study among patients receiving care at the Miami VA Healthcare System. The authors concluded that this EMR-based automatic algorithm is accurate and effective at identifying diabetes and prediabetes status in large at-risk populations receiving care in health systems such as the VA. They call for future studies to evaluate strategies to deploy sustainable evidence-based interventions known to delay the progression of diabetes.

[Read more.](#)

Telepharmacy and Access to Pharmaceutical Services in Rural Areas

by Raghav Sarkar, MBBS, MPH. MS; Brandon J. Metzger, MS; Hannah M. Sayre, MHA; Chelsea M. Slater, MHA; Sruthi Katamneni, BDS; MDA; and Alberto Coustasse, DrPH, MD, MBA, MPH

Access to pharmaceutical services in rural areas has been affected by a national shortage of pharmacists. Telepharmacy, a subspecialty of telemedicine, has involved the utilization of telecommunications to deliver pharmaceutical services to consumers located at a distance. Researchers at Marshall University in West Virginia performed a literature review to examine the effect of the utilization of telepharmacy on rural hospitals' access to pharmaceutical services. The findings demonstrate that telepharmacy networks have provided some benefits through which pharmaceutical access to rural areas has been enhanced. Such networks could diminish the problem of rural pharmacist understaffing, especially after hours and during vacations. Telepharmacy could also aid in reducing medication errors, which have increased as a result of the inability to recruit and retain pharmacists in rural area and could be a tool to maintain the pharmacist-consumer relationship.

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About *Perspectives in Health Information Management*

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