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Setting the Data Benchmark for Ensuring Quality Health Information

New white paper from AHIMA and Iron Mountain shares insights on data governance implementation as part of an information governance program

CHICAGO – September 14, 2018 – Implementation of a data governance program—a series of standardized management practices to address the creation, use and reporting of data — is essential to the quality, accessibility and security of the vast amount of data within a healthcare organization.

A key component to information governance, healthcare organizations’ adoption of data governance, is the focus of a newly published white paper from the [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) and Iron Mountain Incorporated entitled [2018 Information Governance Adoption Model™ \(IGAM\) Assessing the Data Governance Competency as a Subset of Information Governance](#).

The white paper outlines four of the eight maturity markers of a data governance program and provides insights and practical applications from Iron Mountain, a collaborative partner and *IGHealthRate™* supporter, to advance data governance in healthcare. Part of the same overall program, data governance covers the policies and strategies that address the creation of data while information governance concerns the lifecycle management of this data and information, including its use, protection, and preservation.

The first in a series that will focus on specific IGAM™ competencies using data analytics from [IGHealthRate™](#), the white paper is free and available to organizations in both provider and non-provider settings.

“An established data and information governance program not only ensures the quality and integrity of health information, but it directly contributes to safe, quality patient care,” said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD. “With this first in a series of white papers, AHIMA is sharing important insights that will help organizations continue on their path to information governance maturity—improving patient care, population health management and reducing healthcare costs.”

A recent survey of healthcare organizations using AHIMA’s IGAM™, including hospitals, physician groups and accountable care organizations among others, found that most scored at a Level 2 for data governance maturity. This indicates they are aware of the benefit and the

impact that data quality and data stewards have on effective use and management of data, but do not have fully implemented programs, according to findings highlighted in the white paper. To mature in the data governance competency, AHIMA advises organization leaders and stakeholders focus on implementation of an effective governance program and initiatives that address the maturity markers in a systematic manner.

The IGAM™ maturity markers addressed in the white paper include:

- Establishment of a data governance program focused on guidelines for data quality and compliance
- Business process ownership to establish, among other issues, policies for controlling and granting access to data
- Effective use of data stewards to create a formal role or set of roles that include responsibility and accountability for data across the data lifecycle
- Data governance policies and procedures to establish expectations and processes for consistent data governance practice by an organization's workforce

The white paper is available for download [here](#).

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About Iron Mountain

Iron Mountain Incorporated (NYSE: IRM), founded in 1951, is the global leader for storage and information management services. Trusted by more than 225,000 organizations around the world, and with a real estate network of more than 85 million square feet across more than 1,400 facilities in over 50 countries, Iron Mountain stores and protects billions of valued assets, including critical business information, highly sensitive data, and cultural and historical artifacts. Providing solutions that include [information management](#), [digital transformation](#), [secure storage](#), [secure destruction](#), as well as [data centers](#), [cloud services](#) and [art storage and logistics](#), Iron Mountain helps customers lower cost and risk, comply with regulations, recover from disaster, and enable a more digital way of working. Visit <http://www.ironmountain.com/> for more information.

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