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233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Fl.
Chicago, IL 60601

phone >>(312) 233-1100

fax >>(312) 233-1090

web >>www.ahima.org

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For more information, please contact:

Lauren Kotarski

Public Communications Inc.

312-558-1770

lkotarski@pcipr.com

New Research Explores Effectiveness of Lean Methodology to Improve EHR Documentation

CHICAGO – April 17, 2018 – The Spring 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 a descriptive observational study to determine the effectiveness of telemedicine for type 2 diabetes and a literature review examining the reasons leading to switching electronic health record (EHR) vendors.

Study Finds Lean Methodology Effective in Identifying First-generation EHR Documentation Inefficiencies

Authors of the study “Utilization of Lean Methodology to Improve Quality and Efficiency of Rehabilitation Electronic Health Record Documentation,” used baseline data from interaction time studies, productivity measures, and stakeholder surveys to guide the redesign of an inefficient, first-generation EHR documentation system.

The authors found that improvements in the flow, accuracy, and timeliness of information may translate into larger societal benefits, such as reductions in healthcare-related costs, patient mortality, and morbidity.

The results demonstrate that implementation of Lean methodology proved to be an effective approach to identify inefficiencies in the first-generation EHR documentation templates and processes. “AHIMA has long argued that when information is accurate, timely, and in the right place at the right time, everyone benefits,” said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD. “It is exciting to see this implementation of Lean methodology proving to be an effective approach to identify ways EHR documentation can improve.”

[Read the full article.](#)

The spring issue also features the following articles:

Attitudes and Perceptions of Behavioral Health Clinicians on Electronic Health Record Adoption: Overcoming Obstacles to Improve Acceptance and Utilization

by Stephen Odom, PhD, and Kristen Willeumier, PhD

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationships that may exist between behavioral healthcare clinicians' perceptions of usefulness and ease of use of EHRs and demographic variables regarding adoption of EHRs. The findings of a survey of licensed marriage and family therapists in California suggested that older clinicians are less likely to perceive EHRs as useful in their professional practice and that perceived ease of use and usefulness of EHRs are positively associated with attitudes toward adoption of EHRs. These findings indicate that to improve the adoption of EHRs among behavioral health clinicians, the EHR needs to be viewed as useful.

[Read more.](#)

Mastering International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) Procedural Coding: Learning and Instructional Theories

by Justin Thomas Rousse, DHSc, RHIA, and Helen Salisbury, PhD

This quantitative descriptive study explored frequencies of learning theories used in the mastery of ICD-10 procedural coding among AHIMA–approved trainers. It further explored frequencies of instructional theories used in the training methodology by ICD-10 trainers when presenting ICD-10 procedural coding workshops. Findings revealed that AHIMA Academy trainees rated self-regulated learning higher than other learning theories in their mastery of ICD-10 coding.

[Read more.](#)

A Qualitative Study of Master Patient Index (MPI) Record Challenges from Health Information Management Professionals' Perspectives

by Joe Lintz, MS, RHIA

An urban nonprofit healthcare facility located in Dallas, Texas, conducted an informal study in an effort to gather more information about the challenges associated with the MPI in healthcare delivery from the HIM professionals' perspectives.

The study was a content analysis of in-depth interviews conducted by the organization using a semistructured questionnaire to collect information from HIM professionals. The article reviews the five themes that emerged from the responses about the challenges associated with the MPI among HIM professionals, which will be used to develop a comprehensive strategic plan of action to address the challenges proactively.

[Read more.](#)

Use of Telemedicine in Spain—Perceptions of Patients, Physicians, and Pharmacists

by Patricia Rodríguez Fortúnez, MD, PhD; Josep Franch-Nadal, MD, PhD; José Antonio Fornos Pérez, MD; Fernando Martínez-Martínez, MD, PharmD; Héctor David de Paz Fernández, PhD; and María-Luisa Orera-Peña, MD

The usefulness of telemedicine has been discussed in recent years. However, preconceptions about telemedicine have been less studied, despite the fact that they could change patient engagement. The authors aim to describe the standpoints of patients, physicians, and pharmacists concerning its use for managing diabetes mellitus type 2 (T2DM). In this study, patients, physicians, and pharmacists completed a questionnaire. Although 9.8 percent and 28.3 percent of patients and physicians had used telemedical resources, none of the pharmacists reported experience in telemedicine. The observed discrepancies between health professionals and patients highlight the importance of improving patients' knowledge about T2DM and instilling lifestyle habits.

[Read more.](#)

Why Physicians Switch Electronic Health Record Vendors

by Alberto Coustasse, DrPH, MD, MBA, MPH; Pete Andresen, MS; Michelle Schussler, MS; Kyle Sowards, MS; and Craig Kimble, PharmD, MBA, MS, BCACP

Many factors are involved when a physician or health system chooses to switch electronic health record vendors. In this literature review, researchers sought to identify the various reasons that lead to switching vendors and the barriers and benefits associated with doing so. System functionality and cost were identified as the two largest deciding factors in switching vendors. Also, shifting regulatory standards, including the Meaningful Use and Physician Quality Reporting System standards, require increased system functionality to fulfill quality reporting measures. This need has led many physicians and health systems to switch vendors to accommodate these requirements. Despite the costs associated with switching electronic health record vendors, many physicians and health systems have decided to switch to receive additional functionality, improve reporting capabilities, and increase platform benefits.

[Read more.](#)

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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