



## news

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## Using Health Informatics to Solve Duplicate Medical Record Problem

*Health information and informatics roles play vital function in preventing and solving issue of duplicate records*

**CHICAGO – September 12, 2018** – Rapid advances in informatics technology provide new tools and solutions to tackle the growing duplicate records issue affecting patient safety, medical care and data accuracy.

In the article “[Double Trouble](#),” in the September issue of the Journal of AHIMA, the monthly journal of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), health informatics and information management (HIIM) professionals discuss the specific consequences of duplicate medical records and how they can prevent and help solve this issue.

“Data accuracy and patient safety are top priorities for health information management professionals and preventing duplicate medical records is a key component of quality patient care,” said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE. “To resolve this matter, it’s imperative for us to advance with the technology around us and ensure we’re well versed in using these new tools.”

The authors suggest several solutions or tools that can be adopted to prevent duplicate records from an informatics perspective, such as algorithms, smart cards, biometrics, advanced enterprise master patient index (MPI) and radio frequency identification technology (RFIT). Further steps HIIM professionals can take include:

- Developing a quality improvement and data quality team that is responsible for monitoring, reviewing and correcting duplicate records.
- Collaborating with IT professionals to establish patient identifiers in the MPI, which may include: name, date of birth, maiden name and gender.
- Educating patients to ensure their patient registration is accurate by providing their legal first and last name and verifying it with a form of acceptable documentation.

The article includes additional initiatives to watch for from healthcare organizations such as the College of Health Information Management Executives and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.

## **Also, in this issue**

### **Using Population Health, Inclusive HIM Practices to Better Treat LGBTQ Patients**

The LGBTQ population faces a multitude of health disparities, such as barriers to appropriate healthcare access and many other issues, including but not limited to social stigma, discrimination and violations of patient rights.

In the article "[Using Population Health, Inclusive HIM Practices to Better Treat LGBTQ Patients.](#)" HIM experts examine specific LGBTQ healthcare concerns and provide insight on how to be an inclusive healthcare organization while promoting equality and education of LGBTQ issues. The article also details the 2010 Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2020 Initiative, a 10-year campaign that outlines the department's goals and objectives for health promotion and disease prevention, specifically for the LGBTQ community.

Read these articles and more in the September issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* or online at [journal.ahima.org](http://journal.ahima.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)