



news

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HIM in 2016

Journal of AHIMA highlights key focuses for profession in the new year

CHICAGO – Jan. 4, 2016 – What topics will define health information management (HIM) in 2016? The [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) analyzes and discusses key drivers such as information governance (IG), standards and more in the cover story of the January issue of the *Journal of AHIMA*, “[Stocking HIM's Workbench for the Year Ahead.](#)”

“In 2016, our profession will continue to build on this year’s progress and also evolve to meet the new challenges and opportunities that arise,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “AHIMA maintains our commitment to offering content, services, products and expertise that meet the needs of our members and support the profession and the healthcare system at this dynamic time.”

The article highlights the following areas for 2016: CDI, data analytics, ICD-10, IG, privacy and security and standards. The story also notes informatics and consumer engagement.

In 2015, AHIMA built on the [Information Governance Principles for Healthcare™](#), a set of eight health-care specific IG principles adapted in part from ARMA's Generally Accepted Recordkeeping Principles, and created the Information Governance Adoption Model. AHIMA also announced two new services — [IG PulseRate™](#) and [IG Advisors™](#) — to help organizations implement IG.

This year, AHIMA plans to launch a number of IG-related projects including IG HealthRate™, an online tool that allows organizations to evaluate their IG readiness.

After spending 2015 building awareness of the importance of standards, the AHIMA standards team will now focus its efforts to advocating for the actual use of health IT standards. “Our number one goal is to guide the development of standards and information governance for functional interoperability in collaboration with HIT vendors,” said Diana Warner, MS, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA, in the article. Warner is a director of HIM practice excellence at AHIMA.

In the article, Angela Rose, MHA, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA, a director of HIM practice excellence at AHIMA, said providers should be prepared for phase two of the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) HIPAA audits. These audits will for the first time include business associates. Rose also said to keep an eye on the legislation known as the "21st Century Cures Act." As written, the law would change, among other things, how personal health information is shared for research purposes.

Also in this issue:

- In [Working Smart](#), a professional practice forum, Harry Rhodes, MBA, RHIA, CHPS, CDIP, CPHIMS, FAHIMA, director of National Standards at AHIMA, describes how standards activities are responding to trends in consumer mobile health. Rhodes outlines some of the privacy and security challenges that go along with consumers accessing health information via mobile devices. In addition, he notes that Health Level Seven (HL7) Mobile Health (mHealth) Work Group is focusing on patient engagement (patient-generated data), cloud computing (interoperability) and secure/trusted messaging (building patient trust).
- The practice brief, "[Putting the ICD-10-CM/PCS GEMs into Practice \(Updated\)](#)," outlines how healthcare organizations can best use General Equivalence Mappings (GEMs) to facilitate translations to ICD-10-CM/PCS. The practice brief authors write, "Applied maps based on the GEMs are the closest to an industry-wide consistent mapping standard that is likely to be reasonable and achievable."

Read these articles and more in the January issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* or online at journal.ahima.org.

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 101,000 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's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. www.ahima.org