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## The Year Ahead for HIM

### Reflecting on HIM's Past Year and Looking Ahead in 2014

CHICAGO – January 8, 2014 – Whether it's getting electronic health record (EHR) systems compliant for stage 2 of the "meaningful use" EHR Incentive Program, complying with the HIPAA Omnibus Final Rule, or preparing to meet the ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation date, one year's worth of planning is far from adequate. More work awaits in 2014.

"As HIM professionals and others in healthcare look ahead to ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation, more work on Meaningful Use, and other big changes, we anticipate a particularly busy year," says AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, FAHIMA. "No matter what changes are in store in 2014, AHIMA is ready to offer resources and education to help."

In "[The Year Ahead for HIM](#)," the January *Journal of AHIMA* offers a review of the top HIM issues in 2013 and how they will continue to impact the HIM industry and its professionals in the coming year—according to a cross-section of AHIMA and industry experts. These issues include:

- **ICD-10 Implementation Deadline Nears:** Hospitals and HIM departments have jumped on the preparation bandwagon, and preparation efforts may lead to additional demand for clinical documentation improvement programs, experts say.
- **Big Data Gets Big Talk in 2013:** While the terms "information governance" and "data governance" have transitioned from lofty buzzword to everyday use among HIM professionals, Big Data looks to remain a buzzword in practice for now. But that doesn't mean Big Data shouldn't be taken seriously.
- **Stage 2 Meaningful Use Challenges Providers:** Many meaningful use program participants welcomed both a new year and a new opportunity to attest to the "meaningful use" EHR Incentive Program, which offers payments for the use of certified health IT systems. The article warns that even though EHR adoption under meaningful use is supposed to be incremental, meeting the stage 2 criteria could be a real challenge as written.
- **Patient Matching Efforts Make a Comeback:** The task of matching patient identities—a critically important one in 2014—is not a new issue. As the Affordable Care Act continues to push providers toward accountable care organizations and meaningful use standards require providers to have interoperable EHRs, the demand for better patient

identity matching technologies has never been greater. AHIMA led a Town Hall meeting on patient matching at its 85th Annual Convention and Exhibit on Oct. 30 in Atlanta.

- **Finally a Final HITECH Privacy Rule Released:** The deadline for healthcare providers and other HIPAA-covered entities to become compliant with the HITECH Omnibus Rule was September 23, 2013. Although the rule became effective in September, covered entities have had the time since the rule was published in 2009 to prepare. Yet many may still be struggling to update their policies and procedures as the calendar turns over to 2014.
- **ICD-10/RAC Audit Reform Legislation:** As many in the healthcare industry work steadily to prepare for ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation, some lawmakers are still mounting efforts to block it. Meanwhile, a bill supporting reform of the recovery audit contractor (RAC) program is making its way through Congress.

### **Also in this issue**

The January issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* also includes:

- “[Using Data to Survive RAC Attacks](#)” describes how organizations can mine data related to RAC audits to uncover important business intelligence and insights, thereby reducing RAC costs, mitigating future revenue risk, and improving documentation and coding outcomes.
- “[Evolving the PPE to Meet Changing HIM Workforce Needs](#)” offers an overview of the challenges and opportunities surrounding professional practice experience programs for new HIM professionals.

Read these articles and more in the January 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) is the premier professional association and represents more than 71,000 health information management 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](http://www.ahima.org)