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At the Intersection of Health and Justice

New issue of *Perspectives in HIM* calls for solutions that enhance interoperability, data governance

CHICAGO – January 13, 2014 – The Winter 2014 issue of [*Perspectives in Health Information Management*](#), AHIMA's online research journal, features a specific focus on the intersection of health information management and the criminal justice system including a call for leaders in the justice and healthcare sectors to work together to enhance interoperability between the justice and healthcare data systems. Other topics discussed include student expectations of electronic health records use and ICD-10 readiness.

"AHIMA believes that effective information governance frameworks are the key to ensuring effective use of health information in all care settings," says AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, FAHIMA. "The articles in this issue spotlight an often overlooked aspect of the information governance discussion."

The Winter issue features the following articles:

The authors of "[At the Intersection of Health and Justice](#)" call for "leaders in the justice and healthcare sectors [to] work together and develop interagency solutions that enhance

interoperability between the justice and healthcare data systems." The article calls for "the establishment and formalization of data governance standards and policies, specifically those that relate to the safe and secure exchange of healthcare data" as well as the creation of an overseeing body that will ensure compliance.

Should jails be included in health information exchange (HIE) efforts? The author of "[Health Information Exchange between Jails and Their Communities: A Bridge That Is Needed under Healthcare Reform](#)" argues that "If jails continue to be excluded from community-based systems of care and their HIEs, large numbers of vulnerable citizens will continue to receive disjointed and costly care." The article presents two case studies: one in which a single champion made the decision to link the jail healthcare system to the local HIE and the other where all stakeholders were included in the process. The author notes that "the multiple stakeholder approach, while not necessarily a complete guarantee of long-term success, ensured that the jail healthcare system could not so easily go back to being an island cut off from the rest of the community."

Sharing health information across correctional boundaries presents many challenges. Three such projects in Connecticut—the development and implementation of an interagency release of information document and process, a voucher program to provide discharge medications at the time of release, and a statewide research-oriented health information network—are described in "[Justice-Involved Health Information: Policy and Practice Advances in Connecticut](#)."

The authors, researchers at the University of Connecticut Health Center, compare the security, record linkage, and governance features of each initiative.

In "[Leveraging the Cloud for Electronic Health Record Access](#)," researchers at Towson University investigate a comprehensive "trust framework" that healthcare providers can use to integrate their electronic health records (EHRs) with the cloud for identity validation. They note that "The meaningful use objectives continue to push healthcare providers to allow patients greater and easier access to their health information. As healthcare organizations attempt to determine the best course of action, it is critical that they adopt scalable and interoperable solutions not only to satisfy immediate needs but to prepare for the future.... This type of pervasive access to EHR systems across the industry is exactly the direction that the federal government and patients alike are starting to demand."

Healthcare providers' ongoing investment in electronic health records (EHRs) necessitates an understanding of physicians' expectations about using EHRs. In "[Factors in Medical Student Beliefs about Electronic Health Record Use](#)," a research study at a large southeastern university aims to link individual medical student characteristics, such as gender and computer self-efficacy, to their perceptions of EHRs' ease of use and usefulness. Its findings suggest that medical educators and administrators may consider targeting EHR management strategies on the basis of individual differences.

To successfully implement ICD-10-CM, clinicians need to be aware of detailed documentation requirements. Provider organizations that are able to capture the data required in ICD-10-CM can be confident in obtaining the appropriate reimbursement in a timely manner.

["Evaluation of Inpatient Clinical Documentation Readiness for ICD-10-CM"](#) describes how researchers at the University of Pittsburgh located some documentation deficiency areas in all ICD-10-CM chapters (except the pregnancy and newborn chapters) and suggested recommendations for documentation improvement, as well as a quick reference guide, to overcome the deficiencies and produce accurate documentation.

The authors of "[Giving Raw Data a Chance to Talk: A Demonstration of Exploratory Visual Analytics with a Pediatric Research Database Using Microsoft Live Labs Pivot to Promote Cohort Discovery, Research, and Quality Assessment](#)" describe a visual analytics approach to developing a large clinical database that can be of use to researchers. "From the usability side, visual analytics allow users to directly interact with the underlying data to gain insights, draw conclusions, and ultimately make better decisions," the article says.

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.

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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