



news

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AHIMA Launches Industry-Wide Information Governance Initiative

CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon: 'Trust in Health Information Depends on It'

CHICAGO (Feb. 25, 2014) – During a time of technological transformation and increasing proliferation of data, the [American Health Information Management Association](http://www.ahima.org) (AHIMA) is launching an initiative to increase awareness of the importance of information governance and move the healthcare industry to action.

CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, RHIA, MBA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA, announced the AHIMA initiative Tuesday during her presentation, “The Next Frontier: Quality Clinical Documentation and Health Data Integrity” at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando.

“Information leads to intelligence and information should be recognized as the valuable asset it is and managed carefully,” Thomas Gordon said. “To achieve quality clinical documentation and health data integrity we need information governance – the adoption of principles that will allow organizations to manage information. Trust in health information depends on it.

“Information is critical to coordinating care, so we have to govern our information. Coordination of care is critical to reducing healthcare cost, and healthcare cost reduction is critical to improving the economy. We in HIM have to make this connection so the healthcare industry can see the big picture.”

AHIMA’s information governance approach will focus on the unique aspects of health information, particularly quality and continued integrity of data.

“Information governance is about proactively managing the information healthcare organizations are collecting, producing, maintaining and exchanging to ensure that information is trustworthy, appropriately accessible, accurate and actionable,” Thomas Gordon said.

For 2014, AHIMA has planned a series of activities that will increase awareness and importance of information governance and provide best practices. These include:

- Establishing an expert advisory panel
- Conducting the first survey on the state of information governance in healthcare
- Publishing a white paper that analyzes the survey’s findings

- Developing information governance principles and readiness assessment for healthcare
- Developing an adaptable information governance model and resources for operationalizing information governance in healthcare (2014-15)
- Dedicating sessions to information governance at AHIMA's 2014 Convention and Exhibit (Sept. 27, Oct. 2), as well as webinars, Twitter chats, Journal of AHIMA articles and more

Initial AHIMA recommendations to develop and implement an information governance program include:

- Develop a compelling business case
- Conduct a current state assessment
- Understand your organization's strategy and long-term goals
- Develop strategy, identify goals and define purpose of program
- Build leadership support for the vision of managing information as an asset
- Establish an authority to develop policies, processes, standards, definitions and metrics
- Create a high-level work plan and define measures of success

"An information governance program requires time, executive sponsorship and leadership, and funding, but the rewards are substantial – increased knowledge across the enterprise, better understanding of what data must be preserved, collected and reviewed, greater efficiencies, and better data to make better decisions," Thomas Gordon said. "This will help healthcare organizations reach the triple aim of improving the patient experience of care, improving population health and reducing the per capita cost of health care."

Additional information and resources on AHIMA's information governance initiative can be accessed on the association's [website](#).

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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 and health informatics 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