



**news**

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## **Harnessing Technology to Improve Patient Care**

Spring issue of *Perspectives in HIM* features research on improving the efficiency, accuracy of e-prescribing in the ambulatory care setting

CHICAGO – April 4, 2014 – The Spring 2014 issue of [\*Perspectives in Health Information Management\*](#), the American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) online research journal, features a recent study on electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) that suggests that e-prescribing reduces prescribing errors, increases efficiency and saves money.

Other research relating to mobile care in *Perspectives* includes a study on Web-based portals to improve patient navigation in resource-poor and underserved communities and the usability of an Internet-enabled surveillance system to monitor patients

“Advances in technology offer the potential for better care for more patients,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “*Perspectives* shows that health information management (HIM) professionals can play a critical role in harnessing the technology so that doctors and patients can have the right information at the right time.”

The spring issue features the following articles:

The authors of “[Electronic Prescribing: Improving the Efficiency and Accuracy of Prescribing in the Ambulatory Care Setting](#)” write how e-prescribing can play an important role in enhancing safety and quality. E-prescribing allows prescribers to send prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy and can be a stand-alone system or part of an integrated EHR system. Research suggests medication errors have been reduced to as little as one-seventh of their previous level. However, there are significant implementation barriers including cost, lack of provider support, patient privacy, system errors and legal issues.

In “[Interactive Web-based Portals to Improve Patient Navigation and Connect Patients with Primary Care and Specialty Services in Underserved Communities](#),” researchers present a case study in the redesign, development and implementation of a web-based healthcare clinic search tool for virtual patient navigation in underserved populations in Texas. The study demonstrates the successful application of health information technology to improve access to healthcare and the successful adoption of the technology by targeted end users. The portals could be replicated

by health information specialists in other areas of the U.S. to address disparities in healthcare access.

A major challenge hindering public health research in Nigeria is the difficulty of obtaining accurate data, which limits the proper assessment of the magnitude and distribution of diseases. The study, "[Evaluation of an Interactive Surveillance System for Monitoring Acute Bacterial Infections in Nigeria](#)" found that the majority of participants said the system that was developed easy to use and reported confidence in it. If long-term use is successful, this system could be deployed in other resource poor-environments.

Rapid advancements in DNA sequencing and other biotechnologies have yielded a large amount of personal genomic data. In the study, "[Personal Genomic Information Management and Personalized Medicine: Challenges, Current Solutions, and Roles of HIM Professionals](#)," the authors discuss the opportunities for HIM professionals in genomics-based personalized medicine as the need for managing, analyzing and interpreting these personal genomic data are escalated.

In a [descriptive study](#), health-related laws and regulations from the United States, the United Kingdom and Iran were collected, using a review of literature and the available data. Then, experts analyzed the deficiencies and in health information laws and regulations in Iran. The study suggests that raising healthcare managers' awareness of the importance of passing health information laws is essential.

The study, "[Leader-Member Exchange Relationships in Health Information Management](#)," seeks to raise awareness of the leader-member exchange (LMX) theory of leadership and its potential benefit to the HIM profession. The research indicates that the LMX concept may be an avenue to investigate in preparing future and current HIM professionals for leadership.

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### **About *Perspectives***

[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. Join *Perspectives* in celebrating 10 years of scholarly publishing that advances health information management practice.

### **About AHIMA**

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 71,000 educated 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.

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