



news

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AHIMA Joins ECRI Institute Project to Enhance Patient Safety, Reduce HIT Risk

CHICAGO – April 28, 2014 – As health information technology (IT), applications and uses including electronic health records (EHRs) and health information exchange (HIE), continues to expand, it is increasingly important to make healthcare safer by understanding and mitigating health IT hazards and safety events. The [American Health Information Management Association](http://www.ahima.org) (AHIMA) and the [ECRI Institute](http://www.ecri.org) are partnering in a pilot project to promote patient safety and quality care through the reduction of health IT risk, and enhancing health IT innovation. The project, [the Partnership for Promoting Health IT Patient Safety](#), will create a national framework to proactively identify and resolve health IT safety issues based on various HIT events and hazards.

AHIMA will join ECRI Institute's variety of partners, including healthcare providers, health IT vendors, public policy organizations and other professional organizations, to collect health data, analyze it and report results to improve patient safety within health IT. AHIMA will support the adaptation and dissemination of lessons learned to its members and other stakeholders.

"Patient safety has always been a top priority for AHIMA and our members," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "AHIMA's participation in this vital project will help identify current and future patient safety risks. We can then work together to develop strategies to remedy these problems and ideally prevent them from occurring again. AHIMA is delighted to be part of this multi-stakeholder partnership to generate new knowledge on safe health IT practices."

AHIMA and ECRI are also planning to develop resources on health IT hazards including webinars for AHIMA's members and a special panel discussion during AHIMA's Annual Convention and Exhibit in San Diego in October.

"We know a lot about usability issues when it comes to health IT. This new effort, though, will look at how to implement technology, how to structure leadership and how to avoid health IT safety risks," said ECRI executive vice president and general counsel Ronni Solomon. "We are excited to work with AHIMA in this partnership and to align health IT innovation with patient safety."

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 71,000 educated health information management professionals and health informatics 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

About ECRI Institute

ECRI Institute (www.ecri.org), a nonprofit organization, dedicates itself to bringing the discipline of applied scientific research to healthcare to discover which medical procedures, devices, drugs, and processes enable improved patient care. As pioneers in this science for more than 45 years, ECRI Institute marries experience and independence with the objectivity of evidence-based research. Strict conflict-of-interest guidelines ensure objectivity. ECRI Institute is designated an Evidence-based Practice Center by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. ECRI Institute PSO is listed as a federally certified Patient Safety Organization by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Find ECRI Institute on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ECRIInstitute) and on Twitter (www.twitter.com/ECRI_Institute).