



news

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New Survey Shows Need for Healthcare Information Governance

AHIMA panelists share initial findings of industry's first information governance survey at CMS eHealth Summit

BALTIMORE – May 20, 2014 – Most healthcare organizations have not established a comprehensive strategy for information governance (IG), according to preliminary results of an [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) first-of-its-kind survey.

AHIMA leaders shared the initial results of the association's landmark survey, in conjunction with Cohasset Associates, during a panel discussion at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) eHealth Summit on Monday. Complete results and analysis of the survey by AHIMA will be released in the coming weeks.

"With the technological transformation and increasing proliferation of data we are experiencing, there is a critical need to manage information to ensure its security and integrity," said AHIMA Board President/Chair Angela Kennedy, EdD, MBA, RHIA, who was one of the AHIMA leaders presenting at the eHealth Summit. "The time has come for the healthcare industry to govern its information – trust in health information depends on it."

The results of the survey provide an understanding of the state of IG in healthcare and a map establishing steps the industry should take to govern its information.

"Quality and safety, cost control, payment reform, care delivery redesign and regulatory changes are top goals for healthcare organizations and all are highly dependent on trustworthy information," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, FAHIMA. "There is an opportunity to advance these organizational goals through effective information governance. In fact, the absence of information governance may impede achieving those goals."

Recognizing that organizations need to value and control their information as noted in the survey results, AHIMA leaders in their presentation outlined steps the association is taking to help healthcare organizations establish or continue to work toward a governing framework.

These steps include:

- Publishing white papers on the results of the initial and subsequent surveys of healthcare organizations

- Establishing an expert advisory group to review and provide input into development efforts
- Convening healthcare stakeholders to develop principles for governing information in healthcare, and a model for assessing maturity level of organizations
- Developing resources, guidelines, tools and materials to aid in operationalizing IG in healthcare
- Undertaking awareness raising and educational initiatives on IG for healthcare

Participants in the AHIMA panel in addition to Kennedy include Deborah Green, RHIA, MBA, chief operating officer and executive vice president, Meryl Bloomrosen, RHIA, MBA, FAHIMA, vice president, public policy and government relations, and Margarita Valdez, director, congressional relations.

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

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) 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 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