



news

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Changing With the Times

AHIMA provides recommendations on job classifications to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

CHICAGO – August 6, 2014 – Support for a new proposed Health Informatics Practitioner occupation classification and updates to other health information management-related classifications were among the recommendations put forth by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the AHIMA Foundation in response to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics call for recommendations to the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Principles.

SOC is used by employers to set organizational leadership structure, by job seekers and by students considering career training. The SOC Principles also reflect the current U.S. occupational structure. Revisions of the SOC and are projected for completion by the end of 2016, to begin use in reference in 2018.

The recommendation made by AHIMA with 16 collaborative organizations to create the occupation health informatics practitioner reflects the need for qualified HIM professionals.

“Employers increasingly need health information management (HIM) professionals that are technologically skilled and specially trained and educated,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “The recognition of the health informatics practitioner position – which was supported by researched data from our first of a kind [career map](#) – will help organizations establish leadership structures to manage and govern health data and electronic health records (EHRs) to deliver quality healthcare.”

The recommendation for a health informatics practitioner was developed as a collaborative effort initiated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Health IT Policy Committee, Certification and Adoption Workgroup, Workforce Sub-group and included groups employing, representing or educating the workforce in the health informatics occupation.

Some of the other recommendations include:

- SOC 29-2071 should be renamed to “Health Information Technician.”

- Update the work performed for the Health Information Technician occupation SOC related Occupational Outlook Handbook and O*NET Online database to reflect the current technology-enabled environment and remove reference to clerical and administrative knowledge and work performed.
- In recognition of the workforce changes and current need by employers for technology-skilled and specially trained health information technicians, update the SOC to reflect entry-level education of associate's degree and certifications, remove clerical/administrative jobs from SOC 29-2071, and update salary information to reflect the current labor market.
- Add the following job titles to the Direct Match Title File for the related SOC including: Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialist to 29-2071 Health Information Technician; Privacy Officer to 13-1041 Compliance Officer; Health Information Clerk to 43-4199 Information and Record Clerk.

A complete list of the recommendations can be found [here](#).

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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

About the AHIMA Foundation

Created in 1962, the AHIMA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) affiliate of AHIMA. The Foundation improves lives by supporting leadership in health information governance and informatics through research, education and life-long learning. Its role is to envision the future direction and needs of the field—and to respond with research, strategies, education and information that keeps HIM on the forefront. The Foundation will continue to focus its overall vision of “Better Health Information for All.” www.ahimafoundation.org