



news

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To Wear or Not To Wear?

Journal of AHIMA examines rise of wearable fitness devices,
analyzes promise and potential problems

CHICAGO – September 2, 2014 – It’s a bull market for the mobile health market, particularly for wearable consumer devices. From Apple HealthKit, to Google Fit, Samsung Gear and more, there are an abundance of options for consumers.

All of the new data creates the potential for everything from reduced hospital readmissions, to transformational research, to a more complete picture of health. At the same time, health information professionals are focused on key questions such as how reliable the data is, how this health information should be accessed and whether it should become part of a patient’s formal health record.

The September issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* explores these questions in “[Accessing and Using Data from Wearable Fitness Devices](#).” The article is authored by Harry Rhodes, MBA, RHIA, CHPS, CDIP, CPHIMS, FAHIMA, American Health Information Management Association director of HIM practice excellence.

“The rise in mobile health is an exciting trend that offers potential for consumers to take greater control of their own healthcare and for the gathering of valuable data that can advance knowledge and patient treatment,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “At the same time, much work remains to optimize `personal health data by increasing interoperability, resolving privacy and security issues and developing standards and information governance principles.”

AHIMA supports the work underway at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association and the affiliated Personal Health Data Working Group, which is formulating standards for data formats and communications to ensure device interoperability.

In the article, Rhodes raises the issue of informed consent. He writes: “Consider that most privacy policies are provided on the device vendor’s terms and conditions contract. Colloquial wisdom indicates that the majority of consumers will click through product terms and conditions without reviewing them. The straightforward question becomes does informed consent exist at all? Presently, consumer excitement over the potential of personal health data has blinded the public to potential privacy risks.”

Also in this issue

- The article “[Who Are You?](#)” highlights the importance of understanding how patient identity is established and authenticated. As more information migrates to electronic health record records and patient portals, the healthcare industry needs systems that strike the appropriate level of privacy, security and usability.
- The practice brief “[Defining the Basics of Health Informatics for HIM Professionals](#)” provides an overview of health informatics and includes a glossary of terms commonly associated with the field.

Read these articles and more in the September issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* or online at journal.ahima.org.

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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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