



## news

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## AHIMA, PHDSC Unite to Strengthen Public Health Data Standards

**CHICAGO – Oct. 2, 2014** – The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) has announced that it will gain the expertise of the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC), a national non-profit membership-based organization of federal, state, and local health agencies, professional associations, academia, public and private sector organizations and individuals.

AHIMA and PHDSC share similar goals and work efforts within the public health and data standards arenas, and this collaboration offers a new opportunity to align clinical data standards and public health data standards, as well as to strengthen the health information infrastructure and workforce.

According to their missions, both organizations are committed to advancing professional practice through the means of health information technology (HIT) and HIT standards, and to represent a common voice within the public health and overall healthcare communities. They also work to advocate for and standardize the use and exchange of information through e-health technology to promote population health.

“We are thrilled to welcome PHDSC and its former Executive Director, Dr. Anna Orlova, into the AHIMA family, and look forward to furthering our joint expertise and impact in the public health/data standards field,” said AHIMA Board President/Chair Angela Kennedy, EdD, MEd, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ. “This partnership directly ties to AHIMA’s strategic initiatives in informatics and public good and will increase our collective influence within the industry.”

PHDSC brings a strong reputation and long-standing relationships with major government offices including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and National Library of Medicine (NLM). Its other professional, academic and individual members are equally as distinguished and provide ongoing support and oversight.

“The PHDSC members are excited to be joining with AHIMA to not only continue the development of the PHDSC portfolio of work, but also to drive immediate and broad dissemination of public health data standards into Health IT, in all forms and venues,” said Marjorie Greenberg, former Chief of Classifications and Public Health Data Standards for the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC and Chair of the PHDSC group established to oversee the transition. “AHIMA has a broad reach both nationally and locally, and will provide a new platform to support advocacy towards health data standardization at all levels.”

While logistics are still being finalized, PHDSC’s assets and intellectual property will be transferred to the AHIMA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and will be used to support research projects and education initiatives relating to public health and data standards.

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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.

[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

#### **About PHDSC**

The Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC, The Consortium) is committed to bringing a common voice from the public health community to the national efforts of standardization of health information technology and population health data in order to improve individual and community health. To fulfill its mission the Consortium: identifies priorities for new national standards for population health data; promotes integrating health-related information systems to meet the needs of public and private organizations, agencies and individuals; participates in national and international efforts to standardize health-related information; represents public health interests in standards development organizations, data content committees and standards harmonization entities; and educates the public health community about health information technology standards and the health information technology community about public health. [www.phdsc.org](http://www.phdsc.org)