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Deeper Dive Into AHIMA's Information Governance Principles for Healthcare

Journal of AHIMA launches four-part series

CHICAGO – Feb. 2, 2015 – The February issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* features the first of a four-part series that will examine the American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) [Information Governance Principles for Healthcare](#) (IGPHC).

Introduced in October at AHIMA's 86th annual Convention and Exhibit, the eight principles provide a framework and structure for healthcare organizations to introduce and ramp up their information governance (IG) operations, while ensuring compliance with legal requirements and other responsibilities.

"As healthcare leaders continue to recognize the importance of IG, this series in the *Journal* is an opportunity to learn more about the thinking behind and relevance of each IG principle," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA.

The series begins with the story, "[Evaluating the Information Governance Principles for Healthcare: Accountability and Transparency](#)." Each article will explore the meaning and intent of the principles, two at a time.

A critical component of the principle of accountability is designating a senior leader who is responsible for overall IG program development and implementation. "Senior-level leadership sends the message that IG is a strategic priority and these leaders can facilitate the collaborations and teamwork necessary to build an IG program," Thomas Gordon said.

The authors write that to demonstrate the transparency principle of the IG program, an organization's records should:

- Document the principles and processes that govern the program
- Accurately and completely record the activities undertaken to implement the program
- Be available to legitimately interested parties in a timely and reasonable manner

Of course in being transparent, healthcare organizations must always take into account obligations to protect confidential and proprietary information and to control access to this

information. Thus, the focus of the transparency principle with respect to trust is that an organization's IG processes are understood by, and visible to, all legitimately interested parties.

Also in this issue:

- The practice brief, "[Including Patient-Generated Health Data in Electronic Health Records](#)," examines how this aspect of stage 3 meaningful use will affect healthcare providers and HIM professionals. It highlights the growing consumer interest in patient-generated health data (PGHD) along with its affect on patient care and the potential to drive better patient outcomes.
- The article, "[Mind the Gap](#)," highlights ways HIM professionals can enhance their education and professional development to stay on top of trends in a quickly advancing industry. A sidebar, "Name Game: Medical Records or Health Information Management," discusses internal approaches to getting departments' names formally changed to Health Information Management.

Read these articles and more in the February 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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