



## news

233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Fl.  
Chicago, IL 60601

phone >>(312) 233-1100  
fax >>(312) 233-1090  
web >>www.ahima.org

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### For more information, please contact:

Bridget Stratton

Public Relations

312-233-1097

[bridget.stratton@ahima.org](mailto:bridget.stratton@ahima.org)

### Highlighting Meaningful Use, Patient Matching and Mobile Health

*Perspectives*, AHIMA's online research journal, examines these issues in spring issue

CHICAGO – April 1, 2015 – The spring 2015 issue of *Perspectives in Health Information Management*, the online research journal of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), spotlights the latest research on topics such as meaningful use, patient matching and mobile health.

“From accessing your health record electronically to communicating information over a smartphone, patients have more options than ever before to become more involved in their healthcare,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “The research in *Perspectives* offers the latest findings that impacts physicians, patients and the broader healthcare community during this time of transformation in the healthcare system.”

The spring issue features the following articles:

- Results of the study, “[Meaningful Use Attestations among U.S. Hospitals: The Growing Rural-Urban Divide](#),” suggest that “the digital divide between urban and rural hospitals that are adopting (electronic health records) and using the technology effectively is widening. These findings illustrate that the needs of rural hospitals currently and into the future are different than urban hospitals, and the meaningful use program does not appear to provide the resources needed to propel these rural hospitals forward.” The authors compared the proportions of attestations between metropolitan, micropolitan and rural hospitals and by whether a hospital was critical access or prospective payment system.
- Tethered personal health records (PHRs), also known as patient portals, allow patients to access relevant medical information from their provider. The article, “[Diffusion and Use of Tethered Personal Records in Primary Care](#),” looks at physician characteristics of

high vs. low PHR adopters. “Physicians who had been in practice longer estimated a higher average time spent on the system when compared to newer physicians. Patient portal activation rates and use decreased with increased years in practice. ... Continued lack of reimbursement for time spent in portal communication was reported as a major barrier to providers’ engagement with this technology.” The authors wrote that one way to obtain physician endorsement and engagement is by, “building robust support staff assistance for PHR communication into primary care workflows.”

- The Blue Button project is a way for many people to download their health records in one click. In turn, several organizations have developed and applied Blue Buttons on their websites to allow beneficiaries to securely access and view personal medical information and claims. The paper, [“The Blue Button Project: Engaging Patients in Healthcare by a Click of a Button,”](#) highlights the significance of the Blue Button project in the field of health information management. “Findings suggest that the project could empower and engage consumers and patients in a healthcare system by allowing access to medical records, thereby promoting better management and overall improvement of their healthcare.”
- The study, [“Patient Matching within a Health Information Exchange,”](#) proposes a “more effective and secure approach for patient matching between health information organizations participating in a health information exchange. The proposed approach would allow the patient to match his or her identity between a health information organization’s EHRs at the same time the patient identified which EHR data he or she consents to share between organizations.”
- Recognizing that as smartphones become ubiquitous and mobile can empower individuals to engage in preventive self-care, the authors examined the mobile health system called iMHere (Internet Mobile Health and Rehabilitation) in the article, [“Accessibility of mHealth Self-Care Apps for Individuals with Spina Bifida.”](#) The authors concluded: “personalization that provides the ability for a participant to modify the appearance of content, such as the size of the icons and the color of text, could be an ideal solution to address potential issues and barriers to accessibility.”
- The research, [“The Self-Assessment Process and Impacts on the Health Information Management Program Performance: A Case Study,”](#) looks at how HIM educational programs can use the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Model (MBNQM) to meet the self-assessment requirement for Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) accreditation. The results of the study “will help to establish a foundation for HIM programs to strengthen the self-assessment process, providing a strong starting point for strategic planning prioritization for HIM program improvement initiatives.”
- Does the private healthcare sector in Saudi Arabia follow international best practices in reimbursement, as identified in a literature review? That was the focus of a [“Pilot Study of Reimbursement Practices in Private Healthcare Centers in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia: To What Extent Do They Meet International Best Practices?”](#) Major findings were that “diverse types of reimbursements systems are in use in Saudi Arabian healthcare facilities and that these systems are preliminary and are largely unregulated.”

###

### **About Perspectives**

[\*Perspectives in Health Information Management\*](#) is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, referred to by professors, professionals, public officials, industry leaders, and policy-makers. Since 2004, it has been one of the most credible and respected journals of the HIM industry and is referenced in notable indices such as PubMed Central (PMC), the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), and Google Scholar. [Learn more](#) about the submission guidelines and the manuscript review process.

###

### **About AHIMA**

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 101,000 health information 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)