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Legal and Regulatory Considerations Essential to an Information Governance Framework

*AHIMA's Information Governance Principles for Healthcare™ and IG Adoption Model
provide a framework for compliance*

NEW ORLEANS – Sept. 28, 2015 – At a time when the healthcare industry is seeing an increase in regulation, legal and regulatory consideration must be at the forefront of building an organizational Information Governance (IG) framework, according to a presentation today at the [American Health Information Management Association's \(AHIMA\)](#) 87th Annual Convention and Exhibit.

The adoption of electronic health records (EHR) and advances in health information technology make it imperative that organizations address the legal and regulatory needs that these tools and technology must support, said presenters Deborah Green, MBA, RHIA, AHIMA executive vice president, chief innovation and global services officer; Ron Hedges, JD, Ronald J. Hedges LLC; and Lydia Washington, MS, RHIA, CPHIMS, AHIMA senior director, HIM Practice Excellence.

For healthcare organizations developing and implementing an IG framework, AHIMA has created [Information Governance Principles for Healthcare™](#) (IGPHC) and the AHIMA IG Adoption Model that can provide guidance and structure.

“Investigation by regulators and involvement in litigation are not uncommon for healthcare providers and should be taken into consideration as integral elements of any information governance structure,” Hedges said. “The IGPHC and AHIMA IG Adoption Model together provide a framework for healthcare providers to allocate responsibilities and respond when, for example, the Office for Civil Rights or a United States district court come calling.”

The IGPHC and AHIMA's IG Adoption Model address information security, training, leadership responsibilities and regulatory considerations that are vital aspects of information governance and demonstrate an organization's commitment to regulatory compliance.

“AHIMA is dedicated to helping the healthcare industry move IG forward,” Green said. “We are announcing the release of tools and services this week to enable organizations to score their levels of maturity and develop steps to increase progress toward a mature state of IG adoption.”

AHIMA has been encouraging the healthcare industry to make IG a strategic imperative. The development of the IG Adoption Model and AHIMA’s IGPHC represent a shift in focus to implementing an IG structure within healthcare organizations.

“We continue to see a growing recognition for the necessity of IG so that data and information can effectively serve all the purposes it must address,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “Developing a mature IG program will not only help organizations meet the necessary legal and regulatory needs for compliance, it will help healthcare organizations enhance the coordination of patient care and reduce costs.”

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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