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Growing Your Information Governance Program Into Maturity

Journal of AHIMA article provides in-depth look into this critical topic

CHICAGO – February 12, 2016 – A robust Information Governance (IG) program requires care and commitment to reach its full potential. An in-depth article in the February issue of the *Journal of AHIMA*, [Cultivating Healthcare Information Governance](#), examines how IG can assist healthcare organizations and why this type of investment can be transformative.

“IG is a strategic imperative,” said American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBIA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “While IG in healthcare is still in its early stages, it is exciting to see the growing realization and recognition of its importance. In 2016, AHIMA will continue to focus on this issue to help more organizations realize the benefits of IG.”

Later this month, AHIMA is expected to launch the Information Governance Adoption Model (IGAM) to help organizations implement and develop an IG program. IGAM is currently being built and tested by a pilot group of 11 healthcare organizations. In the *Journal* article, Katherine Lusk, MHSM, RHIA, chief HIM and exchange officer at Children’s Health System of Texas, explains why she signed on.

“I knew that by being a pilot site it would instill the rigor across the organization and AHIMA would help us,” she said. “The driving influence for us was treating information as a strategic asset, and we’ve not been governing it with the rigor of IT projects and capital investments. Being part of the pilot provided us the opportunity to instill that kind of rigor.”

IGAM consists of 10 core competencies and creates a framework for adopting IG based on an established body of standards, best practices and legal and regulatory requirements specific to IG in healthcare.

Health Information Management experts point out that some of the work that went into preparing for the ICD-10 transition can be utilized to start an IG initiative.

The article also outlines the importance of helping members of the C-suite understand that IG can deliver a solid return on investment. For example, it will be important to show how IG can

help support the transition from fee-for-service to value-based care, as well as issues such as measuring the quality of care and reducing hospital-acquired infections, which are linked to reimbursement.

Also in this issue:

AHIMA takes a look at stakeholder response to the ICD-10 transition in this month's [Working Smart](#), a professional practice forum. AHIMA collected responses from a wide range of sources throughout the healthcare ecosystem and conducted an informal survey via the AHIMA Engage online community as well as e-mails with AHIMA practice Council Members. The authors write: "It appears from AHIMA's analysis that the majority of providers, facilities, vendors, and payers were proactive and prepared for the ICD-10 implementation. ... A new system always has bumps but from the input AHIMA has received, it appears that the ICD-10 implementation across the country went very smoothly."

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 103,000 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