



news

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Empowering and Protecting Patients

*Journal of AHIMA article examines benefits, challenges
of more health information exchange*

CHICAGO – April 11, 2016 – Thanks to a host of federal initiatives, patients now have more access to their personal information than ever before. Patients leave the doctor's office and hospitals with copies of their visit summaries and then can return home and access a patient portal to review additional information about their medical history.

In its April issue, the *Journal of AHIMA* examines the benefits and challenges of additional health information exchange in the story, "[Release or Not? Patients' Rights to Health Records Becoming Increasingly Complex.](#)"

"Increased patient access to their health information is a tremendous development for patients and their providers," said Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA, CEO of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). "At the same time, as more information is exchanged, the potential for data loss or a privacy breach is magnified. This is a major reason why AHIMA is pushing so hard to drive the adoption of information governance (IG) throughout the healthcare community."

In February, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) and Office for Civil Rights (OCR) began releasing a series of fact sheets to give more visibility to patients' rights under HIPAA. For example, patients can enact a "request for restrictions," which allows them to sequester certain health information from their health record and not release it to an insurer if they pay for the service out of pocket.

To help foster access to digital health information, AHIMA is a collaborator with the [GetMyHealthData](#) campaign, an alliance of consumer and industry groups dedicated to fostering access to digital health information.

"AHIMA and its members are committed to ensuring that patients can access their health information in a timely manner," Thomas Gordon said.

Also in this issue:

Karen M. Linder, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, the coding manager at Rochester Regional Health in western New York, writes about her organization's successful transition to ICD-10 in the article, "[Finding the New Normal with ICD-10-CM/PCS](#)." According to Linder, while Rochester Regional Health had prepared for a productivity hit, the staff is actually more productive since Oct. 1 because it can now focus on one classification system.

Read these articles and more in the April 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