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Journey Toward Interoperability

*Journal of AHIMA article explores importance of
breaking through the health IT interoperability quagmire*

CHICAGO – August 24, 2016 – The increasing prominence of electronic health records (EHRs) combined with a wave of mergers and acquisitions has amplified the need for interoperability. The *August* issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* examines this issue in the article, "[Solving the Health IT Interoperability Quagmire](#)."

"It is becoming increasingly clear that a healthcare system where information is interoperable is in everyone's interest," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "Information governance (IG) strategies along with development of standards and the creation of a voluntary health safety identifier can all play an important supporting role in making interoperability a reality."

According to the article, health IT stakeholders including the federal government, private-public alliances, standards development organizations, vendor groups and software developers are all working – independently and in collaboration with each other – on methods to solve the interoperability challenge.

In the article, Aneesh Chopra, president of NavHealth and former US chief technology officer in the Obama administration, said that HIM professionals will be best positioned to be the voice of the patient once the systems and software are created. In the interim, he urged HIM departments to publicly report the experiences of their own patients.

"The more that information is known to policymakers, IT professionals and senior executives, the more I believe we can close the gap between what's technically available via the certified HIT systems, and what the reality is on the ground for patients trying to get their health data," Chopra said in the story.

Also in this issue:

The article, "[Health Records All Access Pass](#)," details the University of Washington Health System's (UW Medicine) successful experience implementing a patient portal that allows viewing of clinical notes and hospital discharge summaries. The article, written by authors from

UW Medicine is designed “to assist other organizations in understanding the issues involved and help them manage their own transition.”

Read these articles and more in the August 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