



news

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HIM-Led Information Governance Success Story

Presenters discuss HIM's important role at AHIMA Convention

BALTIMORE – Oct. 18, 2016 – The University of Washington Medicine’s HIM department played a foundational role in developing and implementing an Information Governance (IG) framework that led to an improved process, business modernization, value creation, risk reduction and organizational infrastructure.

These developments were highlighted Tuesday in a presentation, “Leading From Within: An HIM’s Journey to Information Governance,” at the [American Health Information Management Association’s \(AHIMA\) 88th Annual Convention and Exhibit](#).

The University of Washington Medicine is one of 11 pilot programs launched by AHIMA at healthcare organizations to develop or accelerate IG programs. AHIMA provides a suite of support and services such as the AHIMA Information Governance Principles for Healthcare™, AHIMA’s Information Governance Adoption Model™, an IG toolkit and more.

“AHIMA’s support was extremely valuable,” said Sally Beahan, RHIA, MHA, director, HIM for University of Washington Medicine. “The chance to participate in the pilot program was the catalyst for University of Washington Medicine to realize it needed to develop an IG framework.”

“It is inspiring to see the progress that the University of Washington Medicine and other AHIMA pilot sites have made in their IG efforts,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “We are so pleased to see the growing recognition that IG is not a luxury, but a strategic imperative. AHIMA remains committed to leading and advocating for IG in healthcare and can offer organizations a range of support and solutions to help them achieve their goals.”

By design, the University of Washington Medicine’s IG effort was HIM-centric. IG began in the HIM department, which afforded the opportunity to build and test internal capabilities, identify skills needed and measure the affect of IG with respect to specific initiatives.

With that experience and infrastructure in place, IG was rolled out to other departments. The HIM department successfully communicated early successes to colleagues throughout the University of Washington Medicine which built confidence and momentum.

“We really embraced the opportunity to redefine or reinvent the way HIM is perceived by our colleagues in other departments,” Beahan said. “This helped us get a seat at the table and raised our profile at University of Washington Medicine.”

IG’s ability to cover all aspects of the enterprise helped to improve the way University of Washington Medicine managed and interacted with its electronic health record (EHR).

“The EHR life cycle cannot be effectively or efficiently managed in a vacuum,” said Christine Taylor, University of Washington Medicine records officer. “IG is the framework for collaborative life cycle management decisions.”

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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 is advancing informatics, data analytics, and information governance to achieve the goal of providing expertise to ensure trusted information for healthcare. www.ahima.org