



news

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Researchers Develop HIT System to Serve Medically Underserved Communities

CHICAGO – July 26, 2017 – The Summer 2017 issue of *Perspectives in Health Information Management*, the online research journal of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), delves into the latest research on topics such as the use of geographic information systems in healthcare and a research study developed to assess the main barriers of telestroke network implementation in rural hospitals.

Authors of the research, "[A Health Information System for Scalable and Comprehensive Assessment of Well-Being: A Multidisciplinary Team Solution](#)" were tasked with developing an IT solution to improve the health and well-being of the medically underserved community in Pittsburg, PA. The end result was a system—imHealthy—that can serve as a model for free clinics across the country.

The authors set out to design a HIT system that was user-friendly, scalable, easy to use, and had the ability to guide laymen in the design of personalized interventions. The components of the imHealthy system were a well-being questionnaire, a mobile app, an open source EHR, and a web portal. Caregivers will use all of these tools to assist in providing comprehensive well-being assessment.

"This research demonstrates the model of improving the well-being of individuals in medically underserved communities by adopting technologies enabling the users to provide personalized interventions to community members or patients and potential patients," said AHIMA interim CEO Pamela Lane, MS, RHIA. "The results of this study will assist in providing medical intervention for the millions living in medically underserved communities."

The summer issue also features the following articles:

Determinant Factors in Applying Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) in Healthcare

This study was developed to identify determinant factors that affect the adoption of picture archiving and communication systems (PACS) by physicians. The results show that the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology model provides helpful insights regarding the perception, elucidation, and anticipation of physicians' behavior in adopting PACS technology. [Read more.](#)

Facilitating Long-Term Care Providers' Participation in Accountable Care Organizations through Health Information Exchange

This article discusses how health information exchanges (HIEs) can be a useful tool to prepare long-term post-acute care (LTPAC) providers to more fully participate in accountable care organizations. If HIEs are to be successful in LTPAC, the authors write, it needs to move from subsidized or sponsored use to a permanent budget allocation for LTPAC organizations. [Read more.](#)

Patient Access to Personal Health Information: An Analysis of the Consumer's Perspective

The authors of this exploratory study set out to analyze the perceptions of healthcare consumers in accessing their health information via provider portals, when using personal health records and through the release of information process. The survey results demonstrated a significant reduction in charging consumers for access to their medical records, a significant increase in portal availability, and a moderate rate of usage of PHRs. [Read more.](#)

The Role of Health Information Management Professionals in the Use of Geographic Information Systems

As the use of geographic information systems (GIS) becomes more closely tied to electronic health records, those best versed in EHRs—HIM professionals—would be the best suited to take on the GIS role. This mixed-methods survey found that the ties between data analytics and GIS and the current intense focus on data analytics in HIM reveal that GIS may very well be the logical next step in the growth of the profession. [Read more.](#)

Telestroke: Overcoming Barriers to Lifesaving Treatment in Rural Hospitals

The purpose of this literature review was to assess the main barriers of telestroke network implementation in rural hospitals. The results of this review suggest that the financial and legal barriers have had a negative effect on the implementation of telestroke implementation. The authors note that financial constraints and legal barriers are the top two barriers in the deployment of any telestroke program. [Read more.](#)

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About *Perspectives in Health Information Management*

Perspectives in Health Information Management is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, referred to by professors, professionals, public officials, industry leaders, and policy-makers. Since 2004, it has been one of the most credible and respected journals of the HIM industry and is referenced in notable indices such as PubMed Central (PMC), the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), and Google Scholar. Learn more about the submission guidelines and the manuscript review process. www.perspectives.ahima.org

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 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