



news

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SunCoast RHIO Earns IGAM™ Level 4 Award from AHIMA

Chicago – Oct. 18, 2017 – The [American Health Information Management Association \(AHIMA\)](#) announced today that SunCoast RHIO has achieved the first Information Governance Adoption Model (IGAM)™ Level 4 award. To earn this recognition, SunCoast RHIO established a proactive information governance (IG) program in which IG issues and considerations are routinely integrated into business decisions.

IGAM was developed by AHIMA and is available through a system called *IGHealthRate*™, which assesses and scores organizational maturity using 10 IG competencies. It provides organizations a score based on IGAM™ Level (1-5). Each competency includes several key markers identifying critical requirements to achieve maturity in IG.

“Organizations utilizing IGAM™ assessment that achieve a Level 4 or Level 5 status can request [validation services](#) from AHIMA *IGAdvisors*® to ensure responses are accurate through extensive policy, process, procedure review and interviews,” said AHIMA interim CEO Pamela Lane, MS, RHIA. “Achieving this award represents the highest levels of IG maturity and requires rigorous review of policies, technologies and processes around data and information creation, use, handling, storage, security and governance. SunCoast is a great example of an organization that has been working with the IGAM™ model to advance IG policies and practices since late 2015. We congratulate them on this achievement.”

SunCoast RHIO, a regional health information organization with health information exchange (HIE) capability, was an early adopter of *IGHealthRate*™ and has worked diligently to implement IG principles and competencies within its culture and across its business partners.

“This achievement is very important to us,” said Louis Galterio, MBA, FHIMSS, CPHIMS, CHIME CIO, founder of SunCoast RHIO. “We feel we have to know what our client wants and what they use, and that we’d better ‘walk the walk’ with them if we expect to do business all around and in ‘the right way.’ This step in becoming a best practice and trusted RHIO is critical and we couldn’t do it alone. The rigorous AHIMA process verified when we were on the right track and helped us adjust when we were a little off.”

SunCoast RHIO offers an electronic health record support advisory service; quality data submission; certified CMS electronic audit response; health information exchange; and quality

reporting assurance and forecasting.

For additional information on *IGHealthRate*[™], IGAM Level 4 or 5 Valiation and *IGAdvisors*[®], visit www.IGIQ.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 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