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“And the Grace Award goes to...”

AHIMA Presents Truman Medical Centers with Grace Award for Innovation in Health Information Management

Kansas City-based group honored for using information to improve patient care

ATLANTA – Oct. 29, 2013 – Truman Medical Centers is being honored for its innovative approach to health information management by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). Today, the healthcare system was presented with AHIMA’s Grace Award at the association’s 85th Convention and Exhibit in Atlanta.

Named for AHIMA’s founder Grace Whiting Myers, the *AHIMA Grace Award: In Recognition of Excellence in Health Information Management* honors healthcare delivery organizations that demonstrate effective and innovative approaches in using health information to deliver high quality healthcare. This is the second consecutive year AHIMA has given the award.

Truman Medical Centers, based in Kansas City, Mo., was recognized for its use of Cerner’s Lighthouse Solutions to not only track, but prevent, patient falls and pressure ulcers to improve patient care and decrease hospital stays. One impressive result was reducing the hospital-acquired pressure ulcer rate from 6 percent to less than 2 percent.

TMC’s Health Information Management (HIM) department is involved in strategic planning, business intelligence and data analytics, and leads Truman’s annual business plan, the Community Health Needs Assessment and the annual Missouri Hospital Association survey.

“These efforts, along with Truman’s implementation of a patient portal and participation in health information exchange, align with AHIMA’s strategic goal to ‘Drive the Power of Knowledge: Health Information Where and When It’s Needed,’” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, RHIA, MBA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “TMC’s HIM department is an excellent model of the leadership we encourage our members to achieve.”

Evaluation criteria included how organizations contribute to a patient-centered model of care, advance electronic health records and integrate HIM throughout their organization.

“We see firsthand every day the importance of having quality health information to drive our choices, whether they are decisions about how to treat a patient or how to better serve our community,” said John W. Bluford, President/CEO of TMC. “Our HIM department plays a critical role in our organization, and we are very honored by this recognition from AHIMA.”

Marcia Johnson, TMC associate administrator of strategy, planning and informatics, accepted the award today.

The Grace Award judging panel is composed of experts from healthcare delivery organizations, academia and HIM associations including AHIMA members. Judges for the award in 2013 include: Charlotte S. Barrett, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, Assistant Vice President, ICD-10 Implementation, University of Miami Health System; Gloryanne H. Bryant, BS, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCDS, National Revenue Cycle Director, Coding Quality, Systems and Support, Kaiser Permanente; Richard Correll, MBA, COO, College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME); Jane D. Duckert, MA, RHIA, Director, University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics; Barbara Odom-Wesley, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA, HIT Program Chair, DeVry University; Helga Rippen, MD, PhD, MPH, Director Science & Tech Policy, Rand Corporation; Julio C. Silva, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Information Officer, Rush University Medical Center; Stacy L. Sochacki, Executive Director, National Association for Healthcare Quality; and Julie Wolter, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA, Associate Professor, Saint Louis University.

Whiting Myers established AHIMA in 1928 in partnership with the American College of Surgeons who wanted to “elevate the standards of clinical records in hospitals and other medical institutions.” This farsighted recognition of the importance of medical record quality to patient care and research underlies the organization today.

About AHIMA

Celebrating its 85th anniversary this year, AHIMA represents more than 67,000 educated health information management 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