



**news**

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**AHIMA at HIMSS16: Information Governance is Key to Success of  
Health Information Technology Initiatives**

*AHIMA leadership says information governance must be enterprise-wide*

**LAS VEGAS – March 7, 2016** – Information governance (IG) is a business and strategic imperative for healthcare and essential to successful health information technology (HIT) initiatives such as electronic medical record (EMR) implementation, data analytics, privacy and security and data sharing, according to an [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) presentation at HIMSS16 Conference and Exhibition.

In their presentation, [Taking a Pulse on Information Governance in Healthcare](#), AHIMA's Deborah Green, RHIA, MBA, executive vice president, chief innovation and global services officer and Kathy Downing, senior director IG Advisors, said IG is central to the successful implementation of reliable electronic data and information as well as improved usability.

Based on analysis of 500 organizations that participated in AHIMA's IGPulseRate™ web-based tool to assess IG maturity, the presenters shared insights on how IG can assure successful implementation of organizational initiatives such as EMR implementation.

"Information, rather than technology infrastructure, must be at the center of EMR implementation," Green said. "Planning and implementation of EMRs under an information governance framework assures that the focus is the information and includes input from clinicians and clinical work flows, ensuring the user's needs are met. We cannot lose sight of the fact that the information is the reason organizations invest in infrastructure and systems improvements."

A commitment to IG must be organization-wide and requires the adoption of principles to guide decisions about how information is governed. Organizations should assess their competency levels and establish goals for competency levels needed given their strategy, mission, role and resources.

"Reliable, accurate information where and when it is needed is at the heart of the many transformative health information technology initiatives today," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "We're encouraged by the fact that IG efforts in healthcare have leapt forward in 2016 with senior leadership support, enterprise-wide IG goals,

and the creation of cross functional teams. AHIMA will continue its commitment to move IG forward to improve patient care, streamline organizational processes and reduce privacy and security risks.”

In addition to IGPulseRate™, AHIMA has developed two other offerings in a suite of IG products and services. [IGHealthRate™](#) is its newest product to help organizations assess and score their maturity in adopting IG, and [IGAdvisors™](#) offers expert consultation with a variety of IG services including implementation services and gap assessment.

AHIMA has developed multiple resources including a toolkit sharing best practices and resources for starting and implementing IG within an organization. AHIMA also hosts leadership forums to assist in building IG roadmaps for organizations and offers [webinars](#) as well as one-day [IG Boot Camp](#) sessions to help position participants for success with IG. All of AHIMA’s resources are available at [www.IGIQ.com](http://www.IGIQ.com) – the home page for everything in healthcare information governance.

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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](http://www.ahima.org)