

TALKING POINTS FOR MEMBERS

**Beacon Hill Day
Thursday, May 20, 2010
9:00am to 3:00pm**

- **Raise the awareness of HIM profession** with the general public and within the healthcare profession and introduce AHIMA as the national non-profit association of health information management and MaHIMA as a Component State Association.
- **Proposed Legislation: 114.5 CMR 21.00 and 114.5 CMR 22.00 regarding All Payer Claims Data** (Refer to Page 2)
- **My PHR** (Personal Health Record) has become an important issue in health care in an effort to empower patients. AHIMA's MyPHR.com website offers multiple resources on the subject. (Refer to Page 3). Will we see legislation in Massachusetts concerning minimum necessary requirements for PHR vendors (concerning confidentiality of information)?
- **Education and Certification** including the need for educational programs at the associates, baccalaureate, and masters degree levels to prepare HIM professional for the e-HIM environment and changing roles; provisions for loans and scholarships to new students entering the profession and those who need to advance their education and training on the meaningful use of health records. (Refer to Page 4)
- **Labor Statistics Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)** and the need to support reclassification. Please refer to attached document for details. Also, refer to "Dear Colleague" letter in legislator brochures to support at the federal level. Seeking to authorize the Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics to incorporate appropriate identification of HIM professionals so the industry has the ability to identify shortages in the profession. Currently the DOL categorizes HIM professionals in either "Management" or "Clerical" category which misrepresents the education, experience, and roles/functions of the profession.

AHIMA recommends renaming "Medical Records and Health Information Technicians" (29-2071.00 116c) to Medical Records and Health Information Specialists"
 - Consider subcategories under this classification as....
 - "Medical Records and Health Information Technician"
 - "Medical Records and Health Information Manger"
 - "Remove "Health Information Manager" occupational information from "Medical and Health Services Managers" and place within the new "Medical Records and Health Information Management Specialists"
- **EHR and HIE Adoption** Share your site specific challenges regarding the conversion process from paper to electronic. Extend appreciation for the creation of the MA e-Health Institute and HIT Council under Chapter 305 of the Acts of 2008 in which a MaHIMA member (Debbie Adair) is a council member. Mention that MaHIMA members are actively involved in the state's Workforce Development (Gail Wood) and Privacy and Confidentiality (Karen Grant and Jackie Raymond) workgroups. Need continued involvement of HIM professionals at the state level.
- **House Bill 2064** (Refer to Page 5)

Proposed Legislation

Proposed Legislation:

114.5 CMR 21.00

114.5 CMR 22.00

MaHIMA Talking Points

- MaHIMA is committed to preserving data quality and protecting patient's rights and privacy as they related to health care data

Proposed Legislation/MaHIMA Concerns:

For Proposed 114.5 CMR 21.00 All Payer Claims Data Submission

- Currently, several payer data bases are inconsistent in terms of standardized clinical coded data (health care clinical diagnoses, procedures, and testing) and the concern remains that public data quality is compromised.
- Previous Legislation (Standardized Coding Legislation) was passed two years ago and mandates that all payers recognize standardized coding guidelines for health claims data and that all payers are 100% compliant with the regulation by 7/1/12 (Two Years after the proposed legislation above.)
- How will the state ensure data quality and accurately assess the utilization of health care in Massachusetts as stated in the proposed legislation given the fact that the coding standardization legislation that applies to payers is not in full effect or even enforced until July 1, 2012.
- MaHIMA applauds and supports administrative simplification efforts however, is concerned that public health care data consistently and accurately reflect the efficacy of treatment, resource utilization, and quality of care. How will the state assess for any inconsistencies in data (i.e. discrepancies between payer/provider health care/resource utilization data bases)?

For Proposed 114.5, CMR 22:00 Health Care Claims Data Release:

- Policies for Ensuring Patient Privacy prior to Health Care Data Release
- Discussion/Examples of "Interested Parties" Requesting Health Care Data

Prepared by Luisa Dileso, RHIA, CCS

My PHR

Personal Health Records

1. You Make the Difference. Improve Your Health.

Research shows that when consumers actively participate in their own care, the **outcomes are better**.

2. Maintaining your own personal health record is one of the best ways to have constant access to your health information throughout the course of your lifetime.

Health Literacy

1. Healthy People 2010 defines health literacy as:

“the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions”

2. Recent government study shows:
 - Over 89 million American adults have limited health literacy skills
 - Many hide their limited skills from their providers because they are confused or too ashamed to ask for help
3. Changing health literacy rates can result in healthcare savings and improved health.
4. Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2005
 - will provide patients with an advocate at their side to help them navigate today's complicated health care system
 - to make grants available to eligible entities for the development and operation of demonstration programs to provide patient navigator services to improve health care outcomes.

AHIMA's MyPHR.com website offers:

- What is a personal health record (PHR)?
- Keep your own PHR
- Get started, what to include and select a PHR tool
- Audience segments on myPHR.com
- Who owns your health information? How to access it? Who has access to it and where does it go?
- Privacy and security
- Caregivers and the PHR

Prepared by Marianne Garfi, RHIA, CCS-P



Health Information Management (HIM) Professionals serve patients and the healthcare industry as not only the stewards of health information, but also as the workforce leading the adoption of standards-based electronic health records (EHRs) and interoperable health information exchange (HIE). HIM professionals are educated and certified for roles in the development, adoption, implementation, and management of health information systems. Today, at the time our nation's need for these skills is increasing, the number of educated and trained HIM professionals is limited and notably insufficient to meet projected needs.¹

Current Challenges Qualified HIM professionals are essential to the planning, implementation, maintenance and ongoing use of EHRs and HIEs. Projected HIM workforce shortages must be examined and understood to immediately address this critical deficit. AHIMA believes² the transition to EHRs and a nationwide health information exchange requires not only significant investment in technologies, but a significant investment in professional development to succeed. Likewise, a recent study³ by AHIMA and the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) showed a significant deficiency in the education of healthcare professionals in the use of EHRs. This domain area must be addressed as EHR implementation and use increases.

¹ See the AHIMA-AMIA report *Building the Work Force for Health Information Transformation* at www.ahima.org/emerging_issues.

² See AHIMA's statement *Take Action to Educate and Expand the Health Information Management (HIM) Professional Workforce* at www.ahima.org/dc/positions.

³ See the AHIMA-AMIA report *Health Information Management and Informatics Core Competencies for Individuals Working with Electronic Health Records* at www.ahima.org/infocenter/whitepapers

House Bill 2064

AN ACT RELATING TO THE SECURITY OF THE VITAL RECORDS AND VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY

- As a citizen, it is hard to believe how far Massachusetts lags behind the country. Currently, most vital records are paper-based, traveling through a slow, error-prone, multi-step local and state manual registration process.
- The current process and the outmoded systems of the state are time-consuming and an impediment to efficient operations.
- The state is now developing secure web systems to transform the current process beginning this year.
- House Bill 2064 is needed this session to make this transformation a success. It would:
 - Require use of a secure, centralized database for statewide registration and certificate issuance.
 - Deter counterfeiting and identity fraud by securely issuing standardized certificates.
And,
 - Provide immediate access to information validated at the source- the state's hospitals.
- MaHIMA members support House Bill 2064 in an effort to achieve these goals.

Contributor, Jerry O'Keefe