Editor’s Note

By: Sherisse Monteiro

This year, New England's notoriously short summer took us all by surprise by bringing an earthquake, a tornado, and a hurricane our way! Fortunately for HIM professionals, drastic changes in HIM don’t have to surprise us causing disastrous budget and compliance issues. Stay connected; take advantage of the various resources out there to help with the approaching deadlines, updates and changes.

In the last issue I challenged students and recent graduates to volunteer some time to MaHIMA in one of our various volunteer opportunities. To my pleasure, some students reached out to me asking how they could get involved! I am currently seeking people to join an editorial advisory board that would help me with sending communications to contributors, edit articles, and other general editorial help. This would be great for students and recent graduates interested in getting involved but don't have a great deal of extra time. Don't forget, just 5 months ago I was you looking to network and get involved so don't be afraid to take that leap.

MaHIMA is always looking for new people with fresh ideas to help keep our members ‘connected’.

Please feel free to contact me at smonteiro1@partners.org or 617-697-9319 if you have ideas or suggestions for articles and/or for information on how to get involved with MaHIMA.

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Sherisse Monteiro, MaHIMA Connect Editor
smonteiro1@partners.org

President’s Message

By: Mary Radley, RHIA

Dear Fellow HIM Professionals,

The summer has passed by in a flash! I hope all of you survived the recent rain and storms without any major damage.

It has been a very busy summer for me. At work, we are in the midst of a major renovation in the HIM department. Our dark and crowded file room space in the sub-basement has been
MaHIMA.org

Certification Scholarships are available to recently AHIMA credentialed members

How to Join & Get Involved

Latest Postings in the MaHIMA Job Bank

On the Web at MaHIMA.org

Certification Scholarships are available to recently AHIMA credentialed members

Looking forward, there are many plans in the works for educational and networking opportunities:

- A new updated version of the MedicoLegal Guide is available! This great resource has been updated and is available in both paper and CD versions. Check the MaHIMA website for information about ordering and pricing. A pre-publication discounted rate is available for members for a limited time.
- October 26th - Western MA Fall Meeting
- November 9th - Dot Wagg Memorial Legislative Seminar
- November 17th - Joint Meeting with MaHIMA and MaPAM (Massachusetts Association for Patient Account Management)
- Late Fall - We will be offering our first 'webinar' meeting to members! We hope that this new 'meeting at your desk' option will be helpful in offering more sessions in specialty topics in an affordable and convenient way for members.

Please see the article in this issue on the new discount offered to MaHIMA members who purchase the new on-line Anatomy & Physiology Education program offered by Barry Libman, Inc. The program was created by coders, for coders, to provide refresher training that will benefit coders now and will also be very important during the transition to ICD-10. Taking the time to brush up on Anatomy & Physiology now will help with ICD-9 coding, and strong A&P skills will be very important as we transition to ICD-10.

Please remember that we can always use new volunteers and new ideas. I welcome any input and ideas you may have. There are several different committees and the work they do is interesting and rewarding, and it is a good way to network with your peers in the HIM profession. Please feel free to contact me a 617-355-5502, or by email at mary.radley@childrens.harvard.edu.

I look forward to seeing you this Fall!

Mary

Mary Radley, RHIA, President, MaHIMA
mary.radley@childrens.harvard.edu

COMMITTEE CONNECTIONS:

Awards

Spring 2011 Award Winners Announced &

Award Nominations Sought for Fall 2011

By: Jackie Raymond, RHIA, Chair, Awards Committee

This past May, the following MaHIMA Award Winners were announced at the Annual Business Meeting on May 2, 2011 at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT:

Student Achievement Award Winners
Nicole Pepin - Bristol Community College
Patricia Cerasulo - Fisher College
Richard Parker - Laboure College

The MaHIMA Student Achievement Awards recognize academic achievements, high ethical and moral values and are determined by the HIM Program Directors at each of the HIT accredited schools.

Distinguished Member Award
Donna Casey, RHIA

The MaHIMA Distinguished Member Award is MaHIMA’s highest award of honor and recognizes a member for their long and exceptional history of contributions to MaHIMA. (see the July 2011 edition of MaHIMA Connect for a full write up on Donna’s accomplishments)

This fall, there are several MaHIMA Awards being given to recognize individual members and HIM teams. The MaHIMA Awards Committee just completed the nomination period for the MaHIMA HIM Innovation Award and received several worthy nominations for team efforts. Presentations of award certificates will be given during AHIMA’s Health Information and Technology Week in November at the winning facility site, and announced at the Winter MaHIMA meeting and in the January issue of MaHIMA Connect.

Communications

Committee Updates

By: Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA, Director, Communications

The Communications Committee work is aimed at continuously improving member communication.

Our Social Networking Team continues to enhance MaHIMA’s online presence on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We encourage you to follow us online:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/massachusetts health information management association
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/massachusetts-health-information-management-association-mahima-
Twitter: www.twitter.com/MaHIMAResources

We are working on updating and enhancing our website content with the goal of being the one stop shopping website for HIM professionals in Massachusetts. If you have comments or suggestions for website improvements, please contact me.

Many members have expressed interest in participating in educational opportunities via webinar. I am pleased to say that the Communications Committee has been working with the Education Committee to establish webinar functionality. We expect to have the technology in place and be ready to offer education via webinar later this year. Watch for more on this soon!
Education

Committee Updates & Announcements

By: Diana Lindo, RHIT, CCS

The education committee is looking forward to providing ongoing quality education in the upcoming year. We will be providing education in multiple mediums, including in person meetings and webinars. The first webinar is scheduled for early December 2011 at NO Cost earning attendees 1 CEU. The topic is ICD-10-PCS Root Operations. Plan on participating with your staff members and invite others to join.

There will be additional webinars in the coming year, please check the educational calendar on the MaHIMA website. Also, share your topic ideas with us. For coding ideas contact the Coding Roundtable Chair and Co-Chair, Shari Manning and Sue Marre, all other topics can be sent to me @ diana.lindo@childrens.harvard.edu.

Upcoming topics:
ICD-10
Meaningful Use
EHR

The Education Committee is looking for the following:

- Host for the coding roundtable
- ICD-10 Trainer volunteers to join the ICD-10 Coding Forum

Please contact me @ diana.lindo@childrens.harvard.edu if you are interested.

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Finance

Report for July 2010 - June, 2011

By: Linda A. Hyde, RHIA, Finance Committee Chair

MaHIMA posted an annual income of $127,225 and expenses of $117,533 at the end of fiscal year 2011. Income was higher than expenses this year due to increase in our sponsorships of educational programs, revenue from AHIMA rebates, and anticipated expenses for completion of the MedioLegal Guide moving to the FY 2012 budget period.

As of the end of June, MaHIMA has $111,370 in assets with 77% ($86,289) in the Merrill Lynch and Fidelity accounts for reserves. This represents approximately 9 months of expenses which is in keeping with AHIMA recommendations.

51% of our income for the year comes from Massachusetts educational meetings and coding roundtables, 27 % from AHIMA dues rebates and 14% from our participation in the New England HIM Annual Meeting. All of our meetings this year were profitable due to attendance and vendor sponsorships. Expenses are primarily due to administrative costs of managing the association (44%), educational programs (39%) and board expenses for our delegates to attend AHIMA meetings (8%).

The fiscal year 2012 budget has been prepared and presented to the membership at the Fall Meeting. It will then be posted in the member’s only section of the MaHIMA website.
Legislative Affairs

Legislative Updates & Announcements

By: Ellen MacMullen, RHIA, Director, Legislation/Advocacy

As the new Director of the Legislative Affairs Committee I am pleased to announce that Steve Eddington, RHIA has accepted the position of Chairperson of the Legislative Affairs Committee. Please join me in welcoming Steve in his new role with MaHIMA.

In my new role as Director of Legislative Affairs and Advocacy, I have been pondering this question, "What local or national legislative topic is important enough to share with my colleagues?"

The topics are vast; one that immediately comes to mind is the proposed update to the HIPAA rule for Accounting of Disclosures under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH).

HHS recently released an announcement to the proposed changes; click here for the full announcement. The proposed rule requires an accounting of more detailed information for certain disclosures that are most likely to affect a person's rights or interests. The proposed changes to the accounting requirements provide information of value to individuals while placing a reasonable burden on covered entities and business associates.

This topic was recently discussed this past June at the MaHIMA Director/Manager HIM Forum chaired by Jackie Raymond, RHIA. There was a great deal of discussion as to the potential implications that could be imposed upon us. The biggest area that will affect our work flow processes is the ability to track the accountings that include treatment, payment and healthcare operations. There is also an inclusion of "disclosures to or by business associates of the covered entity". It is important to remember what your health care organizations policy is on the designated record set. The proposed rule also includes another category of disclosure to include reporting of access by individuals to electronic protected health information. On the positive side, the proposed rule will only require the accounting of disclosure be performed for the prior 3 years as opposed to 6 years in the current rule. There are a few reference documents posted on the MaHIMA COP topic of MaHIMA Directors/Managers HIM Forum - June 16, 2011.

Another valuable link is AHIMA's news and alerts from May 31st.

The comment period for the proposed rule ended on August 1, 2011. Stay connected for further updates.

Volunteer Highlights

Linda Hyde Receives the Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award at the AHIMA Convention

Linda Hyde, RHIA, was honored by AHIMA with its Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award. The award was presented during the AHIMA Annual Convention on Monday, October 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award honors those whose long-term and enthusiastic support of AHIMA and the HIM profession has advanced AHIMA's capacity to achieve its mission and/or advanced HIM practice through involvement in AHIMA advocacy and public policy efforts.

Linda is well-known to MaHIMA members. She twice served as President (in 1990-1991 and 2004-2005) and remains actively involved on the board as Finance Chair and a member of MaHIMA's ICD-10 Forum. Linda is a frequent presenter at MaHIMA meetings on topics including ICD-10 and data quality. Linda has also served AHIMA as a member of numerous tasks forces and committees focused on quality and data management.

Linda's nominators cited a quote from Muhammad Ali as having said it best "Champions are made from something they have deep inside them -- a desire, a dream, a vision." They went on to say "Linda followed her desire of being an effective member of the HIM profession by choosing an alternate career path for HIM practice and becoming a founding member of a company that provides risk adjustment and performance measurement."

It is this pioneering spirit and love for what she does that makes Linda Hyde the HIM Champion that she is. Many healthcare quality data initiatives have benefited by Linda and her efforts. The alternative career path that Linda chose years ago has assisted in showing other HIM professionals different career paths that are available to them. But, it takes more than commitment to achieve this goal. It takes someone with not only the desire, but also the ability to influence others and to positively influence opinions about HIM professionals through their own actions. Linda Hyde has proven time and again that she can do just that.

Congratulations to Linda Hyde for receiving the Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award. And, thank-you Linda, for all you have done to advance the HIM profession.
LEGAL CONNECTIONS:

Pulling Out Your Hair Over Wrongfully Disclosed Records?

By: Colin J. Zick, JD
Foley Hoag LLP

A recent Massachusetts case shows that even prisoners have a right to privacy in their medical records. In this case, Alexander v. Clark, Suffolk Superior Court, Civil Action No. 0905456-H 28 Mass. L. Rptr. No. 14, 291 (May 30, 2011), the court sided with the claim of a prisoner that her health information had been wrongfully disclosed. In particular, the prisoner, Christine Alexander, sued several correction officials because those officials had sent documents regarding her "request for Propecia for hair loss" to another inmate without her permission.

The court found that the inmate-patient had a claim under the Massachusetts Privacy Statute, Mass. Gen L. ch. 214, § 1(b), and held that her claim was "arguably substantial and serious". This holding came even though "the release of information was not extensive and may have been done without malice". The Court also held that although the inmate-plaintiff had no claim for damages, the inmate-plaintiff could sue for injunctive relief (however, since the harm has already been done, and the hair lost, it is unclear just what that injunctive relief would be).

Curiously, given the nature of the claim, the inmate-plaintiff sued in her own name (not an alias) and the decision was apparently issued without any consideration of redacting her name, thereby compounding her original concern about her loss of privacy!

TECHNOLOGY CONNECTIONS:

HIPAA Security Risk Analysis for Meaningful Use Core Measure 15

By: Pat Rioux, RHIT
Product Management, eClinicalWorks

Eligible providers of health care who attest to meaningful use of technology for the EHR (electronic health record) incentive for the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) are required to include Core Measure 15 which addresses the annual HIPAA security risk analysis.

Core Measure 15 requires each practice to conduct or review a security risk analysis (SRA), implement security updates as necessary, and correct identified security deficiencies. Unfortunately, many practices have never performed an SRA or are not performing an SRA on an annual basis.

The Journal of AHIMA article, A Wake-up Call on the Security Rule, states "Documented risk analyses are required of HIPAA covered entities, and they must be conducted to evaluate and mitigate privacy and security vulnerabilities surrounding personal health information. This has been the case since HIPAA first took effect in 2003."

The HIPAA Security Rule is wide-ranging and encompasses areas such as:

- Business Associate Oversight
- Business Continuity | data backup and disaster recovery
- Data Security | ePHI storage, transmission, and disposal
- Information Security | risk management, incident detection, and incident response
- Network Analysis | architecture, access control, device management, and event management
- Personnel Security | hiring processes, security awareness, and security training
- Physical Security | practice facilities, environmental concerns, data center
- Systems Analysis | system hardening, upgrades and patches, firewalls, anti-virus, intrusion detection, authentication

IN THE NEWS:

Tufts Medical Center's Arnette Marbella Highlighted

By: Sherisse Monteiro
MaHIMA Connect Newsletter

MaHIMA member Arnette Marbella, Director of HIM & Revenue Cycle at Tufts Medical Center, was recently highlighted in a HCPro's Just Coding article for her cost savings strategies in the coding area.

See the full article here:
Assess remote options, software contracts, and work flow processes to save coding budget dollars

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MaHIMA Announces New Member Benefit: Discount on Anatomy and Physiology Refresher Course

The Board of Directors of MaHIMA is pleased to announce that it has negotiated a discount on anatomy and physiology training for its members and their colleagues.

The training, provided as an on-line course, was developed by Barry Libman Inc., a leading provider of coding, audit and education services to health information management departments. The course, entitled Anatomy & Physiology for Coders, provides a comprehensive and complete review of the major body systems. The 12-week curriculum focuses on what coders need to know in order to learn and use ICD-10-CM and PCS.

AHIMA recommends an anatomy and physiology refresher for coders in preparation for the transition to ICD-10. Coders who successful complete Anatomy & Physiology for Coders can receive up to 24 AHIMA CEUs as well as 12 AAPC CEUs. Anatomy & Physiology for Coders retails for $220, however MaHIMA members and their colleagues are eligible for a special discount off of $209, a 5% discount off this already affordable anatomy and physiology training option. The required textbook for the course is available for $85.

Information on the course is available at http://www.barrylibmaninc.com/training-education/icd-10-anatomy-and-physiology-course/

To receive special pricing, be sure to use discount/voucher code: MAHIMA Affiliate

If you have questions, feel free to contact Barry Libman Inc. at 978-369-7180 or info@barrylibmaninc.com

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FEATURE ARTICLES:

ICD-10 Update

By: Linda Hyde, RHIA, Director, Clinical Quality Management, MedMinedTM Services, CareFusion

In June, MaHIMA held its first ICD-10 Forum. Similar to the MaHIMA HIM Directors Forum, this forum was created for anyone interested in networking and sharing ideas for implementing ICD-10. Attendees at the first meeting discussed the ICD-10 planning process at their facilities, other concerns regarding ICD-10 preparation, and ideas on what MaHIMA can do to help support our members. Summary of the first meeting can be found on the Massachusetts CoP. Meetings will be held quarterly, with the next meeting in October. Anyone who is interested in participating in this forum can contact Sue Marre at smarre@nesinai.org.

The Massachusetts Health Data Consortium (MHDC) also convened an ICD-10 forum to assist their members in the transition to ICD-10. Linda Hyde is representing MaHIMA in this forum but it is also open to any MHDC members and their employees. The forum meets every other month and on the alternate months individual workgroups will meet. The Coding and Operations Workgroup was the first workgroup formed. Their first meeting was in July. At this meeting, attendees discussed the current state of readiness for ICD-10 implementation with specific focus on impact assessments and development of project plans. To help providers meet the ICD-10 compliance date of October 1, 2013, Massachusetts health plans and Massachusetts Health Data Consortium are collaborating to conduct an online ICD-10 provider progress survey. The survey will help to assess statewide compliance efforts underway, and will be used to develop education strategies, training materials, and identify resources to aide providers in their ICD-10 preparations.

The next Coding and Operations Workgroup meeting will be on Friday October 14 at the MHDC offices in Waltham. Anyone who works for an MHDC member organization interested in participating in the forum or the Coding and Operations Workgroup can contact Stacy McKenna, Office Manager, at smckenna@mahealthdata.org to be added to the participant list.

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The REC Report

By: Heather Hedlund, RHIA
Clinical Relationship Manager, Regional Extension Center
Massachusetts eHealth Institute

The Regional Extension Center has been busy this summer working with providers across the state, assisting them with their EHR implementations and achievement of Meaningful Use. This summer 79 REC-enrolled providers successfully attested to Stage 1 Meaningful Use. We expect approximately 250 eligible providers to attest by the end of the calendar year.

The Meaningful Use Attestation Calculator

Are your eligible providers ready to attest to Stage 1 Meaningful Use? Use the Meaningful Use Attestation Calculator to see how many Meaningful Use objectives have been met. The Massachusetts Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program launch date has been set for October 3, 2011. (The original estimated launch timeframe was August 2011.) Providers who are eligible for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will be able to apply for their calendar year 2011 Medicaid incentive payment from October 3, 2011 through February 28, 2012. Eligible hospitals will be able to apply for the Medicaid incentive payment for fiscal year 2011 through the end of November 2011.

National Coordinator for Health IT Visits MeHI

In July, Dr. Farzad Mostashari, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, visited with the MeHI team in our Boston office. He also met with providers from South Cove Community Health Center and Boston HealthNet. This was a great opportunity for MeHI and the providers to discuss health IT issues directly with the National Coordinator. We were pleased to host Dr. Mostashari and hope to see him again soon in Massachusetts!

Massachusetts Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

On behalf of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services/MassHealth, MeHI has been designated as the entity responsible for administering key components of the Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program for all Eligible Providers and Eligible Hospitals in the Commonwealth.

Coding Credential Exams Based on ICD-9 to End February 2013

By: Mary Beth York, CCS, CCS-P
Senior Associate
Barry Libman, Inc.

Are you a coder? Have you always wanted to earn your coding credential? The time is now! The AHIMA coding credential exams will soon be changing significantly.

The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) announced that starting in March 2013, all AHIMA coding credential exams will be based on ICD-10-CM/PCS. AHIMA coding credentials are Certified Coding Specialist (CCS), Certified Coding Specialist – Physician-based (CCS-P), and Certified Coding Associate (CCA).

For several years the New England HIMA Annual Conference has included a CCS examination preparation course. Coders wishing to attain their CCS prior to the exam’s transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS should consider registering for the 2012 exam prep to be offered next May at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut. Registration for the conference will open in January, 2012.

Summer Team Talks Recap - July, 2011, Chicago, IL

By: Karen O’Donnell, RHIA
Administrative Director

On July 15-17, 2011, Mary Radley, Linda Young, Diana Lindo, and myself had the privilege to attend the AHIMA Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL, AHIMA’s homebase. We had the privilege to meet with other HIM leaders from all over the US to discuss topics to be addressed at this year’s AHIMA House of Delegates, and topics related to association governance and management.

Team Talks were held on the first day and began with opening remarks and association reports from AHIMA President, Bonnie Cassidy, Interim Executive Director, Rose Dunn, and members of the AHIMA Board of Directors. The Board lead roundtable discussions on AHIMA bylaws revisions, resolutions and code of ethics revisions to be considered at this year’s HOD in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Board also discussed industry updates on HIT Transformation: ICD-10, workforce development, meaningful use, REC’s, and health information exchanges (HIE’s). The day concluded with updates on key initiatives for the AHIMA Board in the areas of professional practice, membership services, finances, advocacy and alliance, and governance.

The Leadership Conference entitled “Leadership in Action: HIM’s Role in Healthcare Transformation” was held on day 2 and 3. Topics addressed association leadership, CSA ICD-10 training, volunteer leadership development, marketing & branding, and financial management. Many sessions were interactive and included roundtable discussions and best practice sharing. Core service areas were explored in depth and they included: member communications, development, educational programs relating to HIM practice topics, and legislative and regulatory programs. CSA leaders and delegates were brought up to speed on all aspects of governing their state associations and promoting the best AHIMA has to offer to its members.

Our delegation traveled home from Chicago armed with many new contacts, management tools, and inspirational ideas to share with the MaHIMA community. Rest assured that your elected officers are well-prepared to lead and keep you abreast of key initiatives affecting the HIM profession. Stay tuned!
**COLLEGE CONNECTIONS:**

**BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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**FISHER COLLEGE**

By Sherisse Monteiro

![Valerie McCleary, MS, RHIA](image)

Please join me in welcoming Valerie McCleary, MS, RHIA as she transitions into her new position as the Director of HIM Programs and Assistant Professor at Fisher College. Valerie comes to Boston with extensive experience as a director, consultant and educator specializing in HIM management, quality improvement, health informatics, medical coding and information privacy and security. Valerie is a long standing member of AHIMA and has worked for a variety of organizations in New York and Florida. Valerie will be working remotely from Florida commuting to Boston for major meetings and events. Look to our next issue for an update from Valerie on the HIM Program at Fisher College.

Below is Valerie’s contact information:

Valerie McCleary, MS, RHIA  
Director of HIM Programs  
Fisher College  
Voice: 727-433-2816  
vmccleary@fisher.edu  
www.fisher.edu

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**LABOURE COLLEGE**

By Maureen Smith

Programs offered:

- Coding Certificate Program  
- Health Information Professional Certificate Program (open to students interested in the health information field who hold an associate degree or higher)  
- Health Information Associate Degree Program

Application and program information can be found at the College’s website: www.laboure.edu

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