

UPCOMING EVENTS

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MAHIMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020 UPDATE

Due to current health crisis, MaHIMA has postponed our [MaHIMA Annual Conference](#) scheduled on June 14-16, 2020 to October 4-6, 2020. Please check our [MaHIMA calendar of events](#) for all event information. We are hosting webinars to offer CEUs for our members and other CEU opportunities posted on LinkedIn and Facebook. Please stay safe and well!

APRIL 2020- PRESIDENT LETTER

To My Fellow HIM Professionals,

Throughout the United States and the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it not only illness and death, but also feelings of uncertainty, fear, and anxiety. Despite all of this, HIM professionals are doing their part. [Read more here.](#)

Robin Andrews, M.Ed., RHIA, CCS
MaHIMA President

FINANCE REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2019 (JULY – DECEMBER 2019)

I would like to preface this report with a comment about what we can expect regarding MaHIMA's financial situation as we all deal with the changes in both our personal and professional lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. While face to face meetings are not an option for the foreseeable future, we are increasing the number of webinars being offered as an alternative and will be taking a close look at expenses. The annual meeting has been moved to early October. These changes will impact both this year's budget as well as FY 2021. AHIMA is providing assistance to the CSA's on evaluating our budgets and sharing ideas of what we can do to get us through this period. Each quarter the finance report ends with a status of our balance sheet and what we currently have for reserves. This current situation is exactly why we maintain a reserve fund to be able draw on money as needed in the short term to cover expenses until income is generated to cover them. As you can see below, MaHIMA has a healthy reserve fund for us to fall back on. [Read more here.](#)

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2020 HIM TEAM EXCELLENCE OF THE YEAR AWARD ANNOUNCED!

The DRG Validation Team from University of Massachusetts Memorial Healthcare has been chosen as this year's recipient of the "HIM Team Excellence of the Year Award." This award is given annually to a Health Information Management Team that demonstrates exceptional duty. It is a prestigious honor that serves to recognize the best of the best within our profession.

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In choosing the recipient, several things are considered, including successful systems improvement, staff education and professional development, creative practice innovations through advances in technology, and team effort in the implementation of new initiatives or systems. Congratulations on a job well done!

Janis Tse, RHIA,
MaHIMA Award Chair

MAHIMA POLLS ARE NOW OPEN: MEET THE CANDIDATES

You asked, and we listened! A recent survey of our members showed that several wanted more information about our candidates for office prior to the election. There are 2 candidates for each position and the full bios can be found on the candidate profiles in the election online at ahima.org under "My Profile". [Read more here.](#)

NORTHEAST PHYSICIAN HOSPITAL ORGANIZATION (NEPHO) TELEHEALTH PROGRAM REVIEW- COVID 19

NEPHO supports over 350 providers as they navigate through the business of healthcare. NEPHO helps with negotiations of commercial insurance contracts, handles the provider's initial health plan enrollment with contracted payers, helps to process patient insurance referrals from PCPs to Specialists, and provides coding and billing support.

Telehealth came fast and furious the last few weeks of March 2020. NEPHO had been working a telehealth pilot program that was funded by the 2019 Harvard Pilgrim Quality Grant Award. The funding helped to implement telehealth services in 4 of their practices that included; Northeast Dermatology Associates, Cape Ann Medical Center, North Shore and EMG, LLC, and Danvers Family Doctors, PC. There were many lessons learned during the first few quarters of the program development but nothing on the radar prepared NEPHO for the COVID 19 crisis that would change telehealth across the country. [Read more here.](#)

MASSACHUSETTS HIM DEPARTMENTS RESPOND TO COVID-19

With the increased number of cases of COVID-19 at Massachusetts hospitals, and the need to comply with government orders regarding social distancing, we reached out to some of our local HIM directors to see how they were handling the challenge. Some have shared that their staff are still working, but wearing masks. Others have limited office staff, with most sending coders home to work remotely. Several have reported a reduction in work volume which has allowed them to focus on other projects, such as record purges. [Read more here.](#)