

MaHiMA

AHIMA Affiliate

Massachusetts Health Information
Management Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and warmest greetings as we begin 2018!

Another year has ended; it has been a memorable one filled with many unpredictable changes, so much has happened across our nation and across the world! Change is constant and it is everywhere, Healthcare is an area of perpetual change and that includes the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

MaHIMA sent four delegates to the AHIMA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in October 2017. The HOD was focused on five main topics and SBAR (Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation) was provided. Below is brief summary of the discussions and you can also review the discussions on Engaged. Please stay tuned for more information in the near future as all of these issues affects the HIM profession.

HOD UPDATE

- Business Process Outsourcing
 - The SBAR addressed concerns on outsourcing of coding and the potential impact on the USA coding market. AHIMA conducted a survey to gather information and the results were reviewed at HOD. The results of the survey indicated that the majority of coding is being done within the USA. Discussions on the legalities/risks of sending PHI information overseas and question on

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AWARDS

Marianne Garfi, RHIA, CCS-P, MaHIMA Awards Chair

2017-2018 Awards committee has been very busy this Season!

The recent individual nominations have been received, reviewed and the best nominees have been selected for honor.

Our awards are given annually at our Winter Meeting, this year February 2 during the lunch meeting. Registration for the meeting is open, and it would be great if you would participate to earn CEUs, renew your network connections, and of course, celebrate our peers!

The following individuals will be honored:

Ashlee Purcell, RHIT– Outstanding New Professional Award

Marybeth Brouillard RHIA – Mentor Award

Cheryl Rau, RHIT and Danielle Roy, RHIT, CCS, CPC – Professional Achievement Award

Walter Houlihan, RHIA, FAHIMA – Distinguished Member Award

Team Excellence Award Nominations close February 23rd!

HIM Team Excellence Award: An award to recognize outstanding efforts by a team

[Click here for more information.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coders2Coders

January 11
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Webinar: CDI – Part 2

January 17
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Webinar Information Governance: Enabling Value-Based Care

January 24
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Winter Meeting

February 2
7:30 am - 2:00 pm
Marlboro, MA

Webinar: CDI – Part 3

February 7
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

CCA/CCS Prep Workshop in conjunction with Libman Education

March 24
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Milton, MA

AWARDS

JOB BANK

FORUMS

FINANCE

ENGAGE

**NEWLY
CREDENTIALLED**



HOUSE OF DELEGATES UPDATE

By Bibi Von Malder, RHIT

Director, Health Information Services, Good Samaritan Medical Center

President-elect, MaHIMA

AHIMA's House of Delegates met October 8, 2017 and discussed many issues affecting our CSA and our profession. Here is a summary of the presentations and discussions.

The Impact of Coding Outsourcing on AHIMA Members

In the last several years an increasing number of providers have chosen to outsource or off-shore coding services. Several CSA's have petitioned that AHIMA take a position on this outsourcing. The group discussed the impact of offshoring coding services specifically as it relates to the loss of coding jobs in the United States.

Assessment:

1. Discussion of clarification between outsourcing and offshoring.
2. Quality, privacy & security risks and workforce greatest concerns with offshoring
3. C-suite should be engaged in discussions around long-term cost associated with offshoring
4. Cost appears to be driving factor in offshore Coding
5. Additional factors associated with lack of demand for coders: technology (e.g.—AI, machine learning, computer-assisted coding)

Recommendations:

1. Independent accuracy study/case study with appropriate methodology should be done to evaluate claims going offshore and domestic claims once they come back. Study should measure quality, productivity, accuracy and privacy and security risks.

- Study must also measure a variety of offshore firms to measure variability.
2. Survey should be performed to evaluate rework that must be done to address quality, privacy & security risks not addressed when offshoring.
3. If studies show no difference OR show offshore coders perform better, need to focus on transforming workforce (e.g.—HIM Reimagined Review CMS statutory authority to prohibit offshoring of Medicare and Medicaid claims.
4. Develop best practices for AHIMA members to ensure quality parameters & privacy and security risks are included in contracts with vendors that offshore/ outsource
5. Educate broader audiences including c-suite on importance of addressing quality, privacy & security risks whether in U.S. or overseas. Education should include development of a practice brief to be disseminated to AHIMA members.
6. Engage with other associations such as AAPC and HFMA to develop multi-stakeholder strategy to address concerns around offshoring once data is available.
7. Federal advocacy effort around offshoring
8. Develop model contract/BAA for outsourcing/ offshoring coding (e.g.—prohibition on offshoring, require AHIMA credential)
9. Coding Productivity RFP survey to include quality implications

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HHS OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES GUIDANCE ON HOW HIPAA ALLOWS INFORMATION SHARING TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS

Submitted by Martha Hamel, CHPC

October 27, 2017

HHS Office for Civil Rights is releasing new guidance on when and how healthcare providers can share a patient's health information with his or her family members, friends, and legal personal representatives when that patient may be in crisis and incapacitated, such as during an opioid overdose.

Current HIPAA regulations allow healthcare providers to share information with a patient's loved ones in certain emergency or dangerous situations. This includes informing persons in a position to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to a patient's health or safety. Misunderstandings about HIPAA can create obstacles to family support that is crucial to the proper care and treatment of people experiencing a crisis situation, such as an opioid overdose. It is critical for healthcare providers to understand when and how they can share information with patients' family members and friends without violating the HIPAA Privacy Rule. [Click Here](#) for more information.