

MaHiMA

AHIMA Affiliate

Massachusetts Health Information
Management Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA, CHDA

Hearty congratulations are in order for our newly elected President-elect, Diana Lindo, MM, RHIT, CCS and our Director of Communications, Jackie Judd, CCS who has been elected for her second term. Thank you both for committing your time and talent to MaHIMA. We look forward to another rewarding and productive year, and with your leadership, I am convinced that MaHIMA will continue to move ahead with our goals and initiatives.

As I write this, I am preparing to participate in AHIMA Hill Day along with Norma Chitvanni, Director of Legislation/Advocacy and Joy Rose, Director of Education. During Hill Day and the preceding Leadership Symposium, delegates from all CSAs come together to advocate for issues of importance to HIM professionals. This is a great opportunity for HIM professionals to connect with lawmakers and develop valuable legislative contacts. We share information about our profession and build name recognition for our association. We want lawmakers to be familiar with our

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***Opting out of MaHIMA Email Communications?
Think Before You Click!***

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KIP COACH PROGRAM AT BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES 2016 MAHIMA HIM TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD



Shown Left to Right: Cindy Whitcome, Education, Outreach, and Communications Specialist; Martha Hamel, Privacy Specialist; Norma Chitvanni, Privacy Officer and MaHIMA President, Jeanne Fernandes

The Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) Privacy Team was honored with the MaHIMA HIM Team Excellence Award for enhancements to their existing Keep Information Private (KIP) Program. The original creation of the KIP program received the MaHIMA HIM Team Excellence Award in 2014. The goal of the enhancements was to continue to promote, educate, and bring Information Security and Privacy awareness to the BIDMC workforce members utilizing creative and interactive

communication methods. BIDMC has over 11,000 workforce members, including regular staff, physicians, contractors, and volunteers.

Working with the BIDMC Education and Communications Specialist, the Privacy Team came up with an idea to recruit members of the workforce to help promote information privacy and security best practices. The team created a program called the "KIP Coach Team." The concept was to have a representative from as many areas as possible serve as "mini privacy representatives" acting as role models and providing guidance for their fellow employees.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AHIMA Health Information Professionals Week

April 3 - April 9

2016 AHIMA Leadership & Advocacy Symposium

April 4 - April 5

Capitol Hill, Washington DC, DC United

National Volunteers Week

April 10 - April 16

**Webinar
ICD-10 Coding for Cardiology and CV Surgery**

April 14

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm May 2016

Annual Conference

May 15 - May 17

**AWARDS
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KEEPING YOUR AHIMA CREDENTIALS CURRENT

Vanessa Lester, RHIA

You've passed the AHIMA certification exam! Mission accomplished.



After passing your exam, you feel a sense of pride and relief and ready to embark on your new Health Information Management (HIM) journey. Remember that your new credential(s) will only remain active if you maintain the minimum required Continuing Education Units (CEU) each cycle. Earning CEUs can be very challenging but rewarding. As a Certified HIM professional, you have a duty to stay current on new HIM trends, techniques, technology, best practices, laws and regulations.

Each credential has its own recertification requirements. A Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA), for example, must obtain 30 CEUs every two years. All earned CEUs should be reported to AHIMA by the end of your recertification period and no later than three months after your recertification cycle is up.

As a newly credential professional myself, I always make sure that I

save all of my CEU documentation for my own records. All CEUs and the supporting documentation can be submitted online at <http://www.ahima.org/certification> or mailed directly to AHIMA.

All recertification cycles begin the first day of the calendar year and ends on the last day of the following year. However, as a new certified HIM professional, your cycle begins the day after you pass your exam, but your CEUs are not due until two full calendar year have passed. For example, if you just passed the exam on April 2, 2016, then your CEUs must be submitted by December 31, 2018. If you fail to submit your CEUs by the March 31st deadline your credential(s) will become inactive and you possibly risk paying additional fees or having to go through the recertification process. Keep in mind, that your AHIMA membership must always be current to avoid paying non-membership

credential fees and other penalties.

AHIMA offers a variety of options for you to earn CEUs and maintain your credentials. There are webinars, conferences, meetings, and other educational tools to help you achieve these requirements for recertification. Remember, choose the topics that interest you. Another great way to earn CEUs and to network is by participating in MaHIMA meetings and events. Also, free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) related to HIM may be used towards your CEU requirements. There are many more ways you can obtain CEUs, such as the College of Saint Scholastica that offers AHIMA approved e-learning classes. These courses are accessible to anyone and provides 12 CEUs towards your CEU requirements!

So have fun, learn something new, meet people and chip away at it one step at a time. Good luck!

QUICK PRIVACY AND SECURITY TIP

Logon and Passwords - Hold up the Hackers!

Use your work username, email or password only for work – never for personal, non-work sites!

If a non-work site is attacked, it could compromise your work email and whatever systems you may have access to.

Create different passwords for every site you use – whether at work or at home.

Using the same password for multiple sites is like giving a hacker the key to all your accounts! You can use applications, such as Dashlane, to help you remember all of your passwords.

If you use your work email for outside, work-related sites, remember:

- Make sure the password is different from your work password
- Change your password for each site every six months