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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hill Day Opens Doors for MHIMA HIM Professionals.....[Page 2](#)

Joint Commissions Updated Hospital COP-Related Requirements.....[Page 3](#)

Study Shows Low Electronic Health Record Use.....[Page 3](#)

Keep Tabs on Devices.....[Page 3](#)

ARRA Creates Opportunities for HIM.....[Page 3](#)

Spotlight on Missouri Western State’s HIM Educational Program.....[Page 4](#)

HOD Team’s Clinical Practice Sites/ Professional Practice Experience Guide.....[Page 4](#)

Accounting for All Disclosures.....[Page 5](#)

March Shooting Star Winner.....[Page 5](#)

Hot Topics Survey.....[Page 6](#)

March Hot Topics Survey Results.....[Page 6](#)

Calendar of Events.....[Page 7](#)

Directory.....[Page 8](#)

President’s Message

Well, it appears that Spring is finally here! The days are gradually getting warmer, March Madness is past, and Major League Baseball has started their regular season. For me, April is the time when I struggle with when to plant my vegetable garden. I want it in the ground as soon as possible, but still fear a late season killing frost. Last night, the low temperature was 30 degrees in Sedalia, but the temperature is not supposed to drop below 35 for the next 2 weeks. I think I’ll take a chance and plant later this week.

Another Winter Team Talks has come and gone. Some of the highlights from this year:

1. AHIMA will no longer be pronounced A H I M A, but will be pronounced phonetically as “AHEEMA” (one word, not each individual letter pronounced).
2. FORE has changed its name to AHIMA Foundation.
3. AHIMA is in talks with Congressional leaders regarding the EHR Implementation the stimulus bill, hoping to have HIM professionals at the table for the planning stages. ICD-10 taskforces have been set up and training sessions for ICD-10 educators are being scheduled.

The MHIMA election results are in with 191 eligible votes cast, the winners are:

President-elect	Jennifer Melvin, RHIA
Delegate	Jane DeSpiegalaere-Wegner, RHIA, CCS
Director	Darla Branda, MA, RHIA Regina Everett, MPA, RHIA
Nominating Committee	Sharon Clayton, RHIA Dana McWay, JD, RHIA Joann Scire, RHIA, CPC Karen Vogelsang, RN, RHIA

Continued on Page 2

MHIMA Vision:

MHIMA will dedicate efforts and resources to serving members by increasing, promoting, and perpetuating the visibility of the health information management profession through education, communication and advocacy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who agreed to run for office this year; your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. To those of you who didn't win this time; don't give up. We need you to stay active and keep working to become our leaders of the future.

Thank you to the 191 people who took the time to vote for the future leaders of the organization. I have a question for the 986 eligible voters who didn't vote: **why didn't you vote?** Only 16% of the eligible membership voted. I would like to understand why 84% of our members abstained from selecting those who will be leading our organization in the next few years. Please e-mail me at president@mohima.org and tell me why. This is your organization and we need your input to properly manage it.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, and I hope to see many of you at the Lake in a couple of weeks. There is still time to register, so go to www.mohima.org and register today.



See you soon!

Jeff

Hill Day Opens Doors for MHIMA HIM Professionals

MHIMA's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill were led this year by Michelle Kornfeld, RHIT, Sue LaBonte, RHIA, Lucy Sweiger, RHIT, and Marsha Dolan, RHIA. They joined about 160 other HIM professionals from across the country who traveled to Washington, D.C. on March 23, to discuss important health information management issues with elected officials. MHIMA's representatives discussed important issues with staffers from the offices of Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill, and Congressmen Sam Graves and Todd Akin.

Health Information Technology was a key element in this year's discussions, especially since the economic stimulus plan was recently passed.

Other areas that were discussed include:

1. The health information management workforce and the reauthorization of Title VII funding to help provide for allied health education. Included in this discussion was asking for someone to authorize the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics to incorporate appropriate identification of HIM professionals so that the industry has the ability to identify shortages in this crucial profession.
2. Updating HIPAA regulations to allow for periodic upgrading of standards and reduction of barriers to exchange of health information across state lines.
3. Formal adoption of SNOMED-CT © as the standard clinical reference terminology for the U.S. to facilitate health information exchange, and,
4. Addressing discrepancies-legal or technical-that may arise from the recently passed ARRA that could prove a barrier to reaching the nation's goals for a standard EHR and HIE or result in gaps in privacy protections.



Joint Commission's Updated Hospital COP-Related Requirements

In January 2009, The Joint Commission posted 165 new and revised requirements as part of its hospital deeming application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Following successful discussions with CMS, a number of those requirements were considered equivalent to existing elements of performance or were already addressed in The Joint Commission survey process. As a result, the number of new and revised requirements has been reduced to 87. These updated conditions of participation-related requirements are posted online, along with a side-by-side comparison between the standards posted on January 5 and the March 26 release.

Hospitals will be surveyed on these requirements from April 6–June 30; however, non-compliance will not impact the accreditation decision. Hospitals will receive feedback separate from the official accreditation decision report on their efforts to meet these requirements. Beginning July 1, non-compliance will impact the accreditation decision.

Study Shows Low Electronic Health Record Use



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

A recent study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that only 1.5% of the 3,000 hospitals surveyed have a comprehensive electronic medical record system and only 7.6% have a basic system implemented. The report, "The Use of Electronic Health Records in U.S. Hospitals" found that larger teaching institutions were more likely to have EHRs and cost remains the primary barrier.

The very low levels of adoption of electronic health records in U.S. hospitals suggest that policymakers face substantial obstacles to the achievement of health care performance goals that depend on health information technology. A policy strategy focused on financial support, interoperability, and training of technical support staff may be necessary to spur adoption of electronic-records systems in U.S. hospitals.

To read the complete article [click here](#).

Keep Tabs on Devices

AHIMA is offering an enhanced Webinar about "The Challenges of Managing Portable Devices" on April 21. HIM directors, privacy and security officers and compliance staff are encouraged to attend. Participants will learn policies and procedures that should be in place at facilities using portable computing devices, such as taking inventory and monitoring risk areas. The enhanced format offers more opportunities for Q & A and online interaction. To register for this webinar or to see current and upcoming webinars follow the link: <http://campus.ahima.org/audio/>

Audio Conference-ARRA Creates Opportunities for HIM

The new Economic Stimulus legislation, formally known as The American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA) is broad, comprehensive and complex in healthcare impacts. There are EHR incentives, HIPAA strengthening and Education expansion along with funding for Medicare, Medicaid, COBRA extension as well as other directives. The Act makes clear that although many of the regulations and directives within ARRA do not take effect for months or years that the time is now to begin learning and preparing for the coming changes this legislation fosters. HIM professionals have a rare opportunity to become leaders within their organizations and to get more deeply involved in the leadership of electronic health record management.

This teleconference will provide an overview of the Act from an HIM perspective. Topics include:

- HIPAA expansion of Accounting of Disclosures (AOD), Business Associate Agreements (BAA) and out to Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) and Personal Health Records (PHR)
- EHR adoption and incentive payments to hospitals and physicians are detailed as well as increased monies for education of HIM and IT professionals will all be discussed.

Please dial into this important conference co-hosted by MHIMA to get a well founded **HIM view** of ARRA and the opportunities for HIM growth it contains. [Click here for more information](#) or see the Calendar of Events on Page 7.



Spotlight on Missouri Western State University's HIM Program

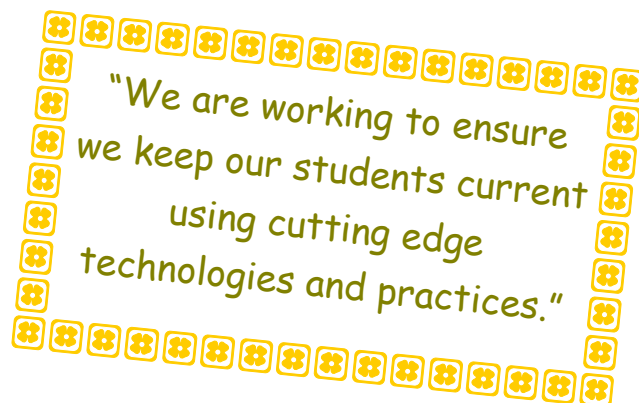


The Health Information Technology program at Missouri Western State University has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception in 1994. Located in northwest Missouri, the program has provided an HIT educational opportunity to a multi-state area. Now that a large portion of the program is offered online, its expansion has gone national.

Students can choose to begin with the certificate program in preparation for an entry level position in the HIM industry or they may choose to take the more popular option of the Associate of Applied Science degree program. The flexibility offered by the program has been a great asset and a welcome opportunity for working adults.

Over the years in the HIT education field, Marsha Dolan, MBA, RHIA, HIT Program Coordinator, has seen a multitude of changes and challenges. "The electronic healthcare age has and is continuing to provide so many new opportunities for the students. We are working to ensure we keep our students current using cutting edge technologies and practices." The computer lab available to students helps ensure they get "hands on" experience with current software. The program is also working to incorporate AHIMA's Virtual Lab in classes throughout the student's HIT affiliated classes.

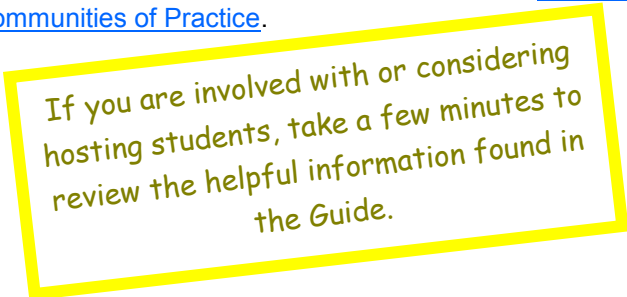
If you are interested in learning more about the HIT program at Missouri Western State University, feel free to contact Marsha Dolan at 816-271-4415 or apply online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/admissions/apply.asp>.



HOD Team's Clinical Practice Sites/Professional Practice Experiences Guide

In 2008, the AHIMA House of Delegates (HOD) organized itself into six teams to focus on different areas of the profession. The six HOD Teams are: Environmental Scanning, Best Practices/Standards, Professional Development and Recognition, Volunteer and Leadership Development, HOD Operations and Health Information Management (HIM) Higher Education and Workforce. The AHIMA Board of Directors sets specific charges for each of the HOD Teams to work on throughout the year.

One of the charges for the HOD Team on HIM Higher Education and Workforce is to provide support and recommendations to increase the number of clinical practice sites and opportunities for students to complete professional practice experiences. To that end, the Team created a Clinical Practice Sites/Professional Practice Experiences (PPE) Guide that provides information and best practices about serving as a clinical practice site and hosting students who are completing their required professional practice experiences. The Guide provides specific, helpful information to: site managers, department mentors, Component State Associations (CSA), academic programs and students. If you are involved with or considering hosting students, take a few minutes to review the helpful information found in the Guide. The Guide is available on [AHIMA's Web site](#) and in the AHIMA and State Leaders and HOD [Communities of Practice](#).



Accounting for All Disclosures

Many in healthcare still haven't made peace with HIPAA's accounting of disclosure requirements—the provision under which covered entities, upon request, must provide patients with a record of the entities to whom they have disclosed the patient's protected health information (PHI). They consider it an undue administrative burden for requests they rarely receive. Now new requirements in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have upped the accounting ante.

The law singles out covered entities that maintain PHI in electronic health records, requiring them to account for disclosures of PHI made even for purposes of treatment, payment, and healthcare operations—actions exempted under HIPAA. Under the new law, covered entities must be able to provide disclosures dating back three years from the patient request.

ARRA also requires that covered entities account for the disclosures of their business associates, or require them to make their own accounting. Business associates must respond to individual requests made directly to them.

The secretary of Health and Human Services is charged with determining what information patients may request and covered entities and business associates must provide.

Early Warning for EHR Systems

Covered entities currently using EHR systems have until January 1, 2014, to comply. Existing systems will need to be adapted to meet the new requirement, since few were likely designed to account for disclosures this finely.

Covered entities that purchase EHR systems dating from the first of this year must be compliant as of January 1, 2011. Systems purchased after that date must be capable of compliance right out of the box.

That means covered entities in the market for EHR systems now must get assurance from vendors that the systems will be able to meet the new disclosure criteria.

The secretary's regulations are required no later than August.



March Shooting Star Recipient-A Guy Who Can't Say No

Jeff McGraw was honored with the Shooting Star Award for the month of March. Jeff is currently serving as President of MHIMA, taking office on January 1, 2009, six months earlier than anticipated due to the resignation of former President Janice Noller. Of course, Jeff didn't even think of saying NO, as Jeff has a reputation of saying YES to the many requests of serving MHIMA.

Jeff started saying YES to the call to serve when he accepted the nomination for President Elect of the regional organization, EMHIMA, in 1999. His year as President in 2000 prompted him to say YES again when nominated for Director of MHIMA. He won the election and served one year before moving out of state for a job change. Jeff continued to say YES even while out of state, when the Nebraska Health Information Management Association requested his service on their annual meeting committee.

When Jeff accepted the position as Director of HIM for Bothwell Regional Health Center, Sedalia, MO, in 2005, he was barely unpacked and settled back in Missouri when he again said YES to a nomination as Delegate for MHIMA. Not only did Jeff serve as Delegate from 2006 through 2008, but he also assumed the duties of managing the MHIMA Annual Awards and the MHIMA legal manual sales and inventory. As his term as Delegate was ending, he once again said YES to nomination for President-Elect in 2008. Now, less than one year later, he is serving as our Leader.

Jeff not only says YES to holding office, but he fulfills the work of the office, handling the various tasks and requests with his always gracious "I'll take care of that!" attitude. The MHIMA Board is proud to honor our YES man, and we look forward to another year of progress and opportunity under his Leadership.

Thank you, Jeff!



Hot Topics Survey-HIMS Careers

A career as a health information management professional is dynamic. As healthcare advances, HIM provides the patient data needed to successfully navigate the changes. Historically, medical records have been a paper-based business. AHIMA is now working to advance the implementation of electronic health records by leading key industry initiatives and advocating high standards. AHIMA strives to keep members one step ahead through accreditation of cutting-edge academic programs and professional development opportunities, including comprehensive continuing education.

AHIMA wants you to realize your potential in this exciting field. Whether you are planning to start a new career in HIM or evolve your career, education and certification often play key roles. [Click here](#) for further explanation.

Looking for resume development, networking, interviewing, or similar advice? Visit careerassist.ahima.org to contact a Career Coach. And, when you're ready, use Career Assist to post your resume and land that all-important HIM position.

To search for jobs listed in the AHIMA job bank [click here](#) or to visit the MHIMA job bank [click here](#).

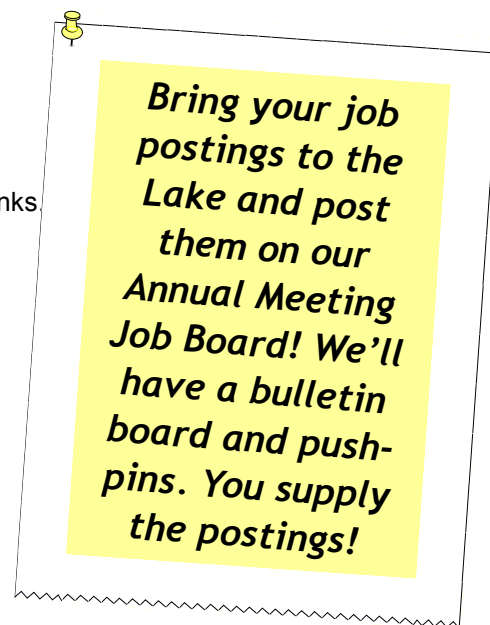
This month's survey asks members if they use the AHIMA/MHIMA job banks:

1. I am considering a career move and do use the AHIMA/MHIMA job banks.
2. I am not considering a career move, but do visit the AHIMA/MHIMA job banks.
3. I am not considering a career move and do not visit the AHIMA/MHIMA job banks.



[Click here to complete the survey](#)

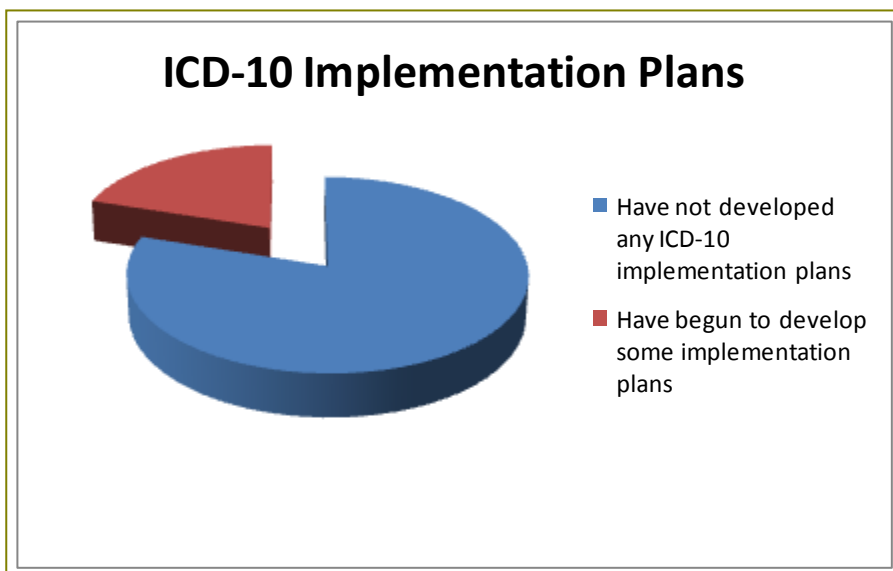
If you have a position you would like to post on the MHIMA job board [click here](#) for more information.



March Hot Topics Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's survey. We asked readers since 2013 is right around the corner, and AHIMA is leading the way for ICD-10 preparedness where they were the ICD-10 implementation process. As the chart displays, 90% of respondents said they had not begun to develop any implementation plans and 10% stated they have begun to develop some implementation plans.

We hope you enjoy our surveys. Results for this month's survey will be reported in the May issue of the e-Alert.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April

4/23
11:00 am to 12:00 pm

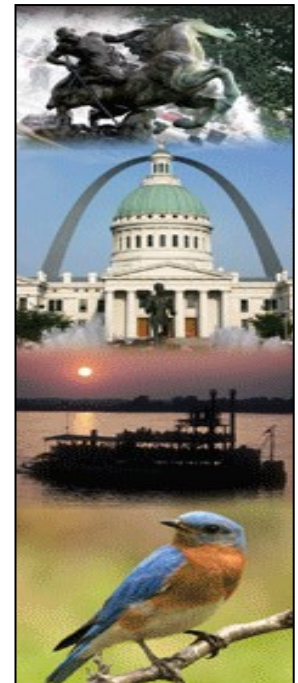
[ARRA Creates Opportunities for HIM](#)

Audio Conference Co-Hosted by MHIMA

4/30-5/1

MHIMA Annual Meeting
Lake of the Ozarks, MO

[Learn More and Register Online](#)



2006 MHIMA Legal Manual for Management of Health Information in Missouri is now on sale-available in either CD or Paper Format!

50% off listed price and with every order receive a *free* MHIMA Travel Tumbler (*Tumblers will be available for separate purchase at the Annual Meeting for \$3.00*)

To Order the Manual [click here](#)

Also available for sale at the annual meeting for \$2.50:

**Pocket-sized calculators with MHIMA logo
Great for giveaways, incentives!**



Directory

Regional Links

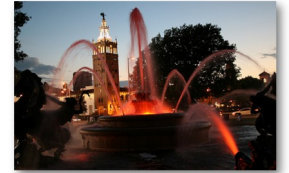
MHIMA Board Directory

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Jennifer Melvin, RHIA
- Director of Education
Ruth Koch, RHIT
- Director of Marketing
Julie Dooling, RHIT
- Director of Recruitment
Diane Swift, RHIT
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- 2nd Year Delegate
Teresa Knox, RHIA
- 1st Year Delegate
Sue LaBonte, RHIA, CHP
- 1st Year Delegate
Maggie Gambill
- Alternate Delegate
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If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it.

-Margaret Fuller

Be creative and informative! If you have an article you would like to submit to the newsletter, send it to the Newsletter Committee at newsletter@mohima.org

To Contact the Newsletter Committee send comments, concerns or questions about the e-Alert to newsletter@mohima.org

