

MHIMA e-Alert

August 15, 2009

Volume 12

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MHIMA an affiliate of AHIMA-American Health Information Management Association



President's Message

Here we are in the middle of August. It seems like just yesterday the summer was beginning, and now it is back-to-school time. Fortunately, for the most part, the weather has been nice. We haven't had too many days where the temperature has been in the mid to upper 90's like we usually have this time of year. I went to a Royals game the last week of July and a Cardinals game on August 1, and didn't break a sweat at either one, which is very strange for this time of year! Hopefully, the nice weather will continue and we can all squeeze a little fun into what's left of summer.

The MHIMA Board had its transitional meeting a few weeks ago; that's when last year's Board has its final meeting, followed by the first meeting of the new Board. We worked on our Strategic Plan and budget for the next year. We have some exciting things planned for the next 12 months; I'll share more after we finalize the Strategic Plan at our next Board Meeting.

If you are looking for a reason to celebrate this month, here are a few obscure holidays:

- August 13 is Blame Someone Else Day
- August 14 is National Creamsicle Day
- August 23 is National Sponge Cake Day
- August 26 is National Cherry Popsicle Day
- August 30 is National Toasted Marshmallow Day
- August 31 is National Trail Mix Day

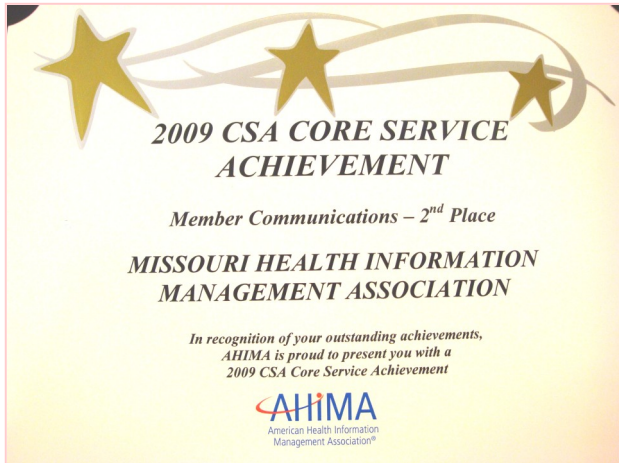
If none of those work, the State Fair starts this Thursday in Sedalia, going through Sunday, August 23. Come on out and have a corndog, some fried green tomatoes, a funnel cake and wash it down with a "yard" of beer.

Whatever you do, have a good month. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

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.

MHIMA Wins CSA Core Services Achievement Award in Communication



Each year at the summer Leadership Conference, AHIMA presents awards to the Component State Associations (CSA's) in a variety of Core Service Achievement areas including Member Communications, Advocacy, Diversity, and Continuing Education. The purpose of the Core Service Achievement program is to recognize excellence in the state association's efforts and to provide other state associations with innovative ideas that can be applied within their own state.

This year, MHIMA received 2nd place in the Member Communications category for our content-rich e-Alert Newsletter, and online presence on both Facebook and Linked-In. If you haven't yet joined us online, visit www.mohima.org for links to these websites.

We look forward to networking with you!



July Shooting Star Recipients

This month, we would like to honor the members of the MHIMA Awards Committee. These volunteers were responsible for selecting the recipients of the various MHIMA award categories that were presented at the annual meeting last April. They also were instrumental in selecting the 2009 scholarship recipients. Without hesitation, they agreed to participate on the committee, responded timely and enthusiastically to the Chair's emails, and were invaluable in completing the assigned task for the MHIMA membership. Their input and generosity in giving of their valuable time were greatly appreciated.

The Committee members were:

Becky Morton, University of Missouri, Columbia

Sharon Korzdorfer, Saint Luke's Hospital, Kansas City

Patricia Priest, St John's Corporate Compliance, Springfield

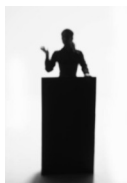
Janet Moore, Barnes St Peters Hospital, St Peters

Maggie Gambill, Chairperson, CHAN Healthcare Auditors, St. Louis

Thanks again to our MHIMA Awards Committee volunteers for your participation and your service to the organization!

2010 Annual MHIMA Meeting-Call for Presenters

It is that time once again. The annual meeting project team is sending out a call for those interested in presenting at the 2010 MHIMA annual meeting in St. Charles, MO. If you are interested please see the link below.



Knowledge Connex - Speaker Bureau Submission Form
<http://www.knowledgeconnex.com/speakerbureau.asp>



Spotlight on Penn Valley Community College's HIT Educational Program

The HIT program at Penn Valley Community College is approaching its 40th birthday and still going strong. Initially the program was a part of the Johnson County Community College and moved to PVCC in the early 70's. Jennifer Scott, Program Coordinator has been there for the last 14 years. She has seen the program go from 1-2 computers/word processors to now having a full blown computer lab.

In the spring of 2010, PVCC is taking Health Information Technology education to a new level as they move to their new location. The new facility is designed specifically for allied health programs and will be in a mock healthcare setting. The simulated healthcare organizations will work to integrate all of the programs including HIT, PTA, and OTA. They will have state of the art technology and correlating software to help the students become more acclimated to a healthcare setting.

Located in Kansas City, the program offers the traditional HIT path as well as a coding certification path and a transcription path. While many other schools have chosen to go largely online, Jennifer has purposefully kept the program primarily in a face to face setting, seeing it as a strength for the PVCC students. The program currently has approximately 35-40 students and has job placement rates near 100%. They have two full time instructors and two adjunct instructors.

The coming year will bring some exciting times for the Health Information profession and PVCC is proud to be integral in guiding the professionals of tomorrow.

Having been through numerous changes over the years, Jennifer is taking ICD-10 in stride. They are currently developing plans to work with the students as well as the general healthcare community to provide training for ICD-10. The coming year will bring some exciting times for the Health Information profession and PVCC is proud to be integral in guiding the professionals of tomorrow.

The MHIMA Bridge the Gap Mentor Program

Help us shape the next generation of HIM professionals.

THE MENTOR

Are you an HIM professional willing to teach, guide, share, or serve as a reference person to students entering a HIA/HIT program? If the answer is yes, a small amount of your time would assist a student in growing into a confident and knowledgeable HIM professional, preparing them for greater success in our consistently changing field.

The rewards of mentoring are immeasurable, and the impact you will have on the student and the HIM profession priceless. If you or others in your company become a mentor for a student, your reputation for employer of choice is maximized and the caliber of applicants is vastly improved.

Potential Mentor must be a MHIMA member. Each mentor that successfully completes one year of this program will also be placed in the drawing for one free MHIMA annual meeting registration!!!

THE MENTEE

If you are a MHIMA Student member enrolled in an HIA/HIT program or a recent graduate (within one year), you will qualify for placement. All Missouri HIA/HIT student members are invited to join.

MHIMA Mentor Guidelines:

Visit www.mohima.org and click on the Mentoring tab to learn more about this exciting program.



Linda Kloss to Step Down as AHIMA Chief Executive



AHIMA CEO Linda Kloss, RHIA, CAE, FAHIMA, announced her plans to step down as leader of the organization and that the Association's Board of Directors has initiated a process to select her successor. "Serving as AHIMA's CEO has been a privilege and the highpoint of my career," Kloss said, addressing the Association's staff and volunteer leaders. "It has been an honor to work with so many able and dedicated members, volunteers, and staff. We have seen huge progress at AHIMA and in the role of health information management in our industry. I am proud of what we have accomplished together." Kloss, who has been AHIMA's CEO since 1995, said she intends to continue her career-long commitment to improving health information and will explore ways she might contribute in these critical times during the coming months.

AHIMA president Vera Rulon, MS, RHIT, CCS, FAHIMA, said the Board of Directors is committed to focusing on meeting AHIMA's strategic goals while planning for a smooth transition of executive leadership. "We thank Linda for her leadership of AHIMA over the past 14 years and for working with the board over the coming months to make certain we accomplish a smooth leadership transition by the spring of 2010," Rulon said.

The CEO search will be led by a search committee chaired by past AHIMA president Wendy Mangin, MS, RHIA, and assisted by the national executive search firm Witt Kieffer. The committee plans to conduct interviews in October 2009 and to recommend top candidates for Board interview by November. The committee's goal is to announce a successor by the end of the year.

AHLA White Paper on Red Flag Rule Now Available

At the heart of the HIM profession is the common desire to protect a patient's right to privacy and confidentiality. HIM professionals provide the day-to-day infrastructure for any organizational endeavor to assure personal identifiable information is kept secure. The Federal Trade Commission will implement the Red Flags Rule on August 1. To provide members with the latest information, AHIMA has partnered with the American Health Lawyer Association (AHLA) on the white paper, "Red Flag Compliance for Healthcare Providers: Protecting Ourselves and Our Patients from Identity Theft." [Order the white paper.](#)



FTC Announces Delay in Red Flag Rule Enforcement

On the eve of the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC's) Red Flags Rule becoming effective, the [Commission has announced](#) that it will hold back on enforcing the requirements and additional three months until November. During this time the FTC indicates that it will continue its efforts to educate the affected parties on the rules designed to prevent identity theft. Healthcare providers became aware of the FTC's intent about a year ago, and many small providers have expressed concern on how they would be able to meet the requirements of the rule while the FTC has indicated its concern that healthcare-related records (administrative and clinical) could be an excellent source of information for fraud. The FTC maintains a [Red Flags Rule Web site](#) designed to assist affected organizations in compliance with the rules.

Get the Latest Updates on ICD-10 from AHIMA

AHIMA's ICD-TEN newsletter was created to better prepare you for the transition to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS. Each monthly issue contains top emerging news, educational opportunities, practical information on coding with the new ICD-10-CM/PCS, preparatory steps for implementation, and more. *ICD-TEN* is published 12 times a year by AHIMA.

To subscribe click on the link: <http://www.ahima.org/images/newsletters/ICDTen/subscribe.html>





AHIMA Officially Opens First Global Services Office

This week AHIMA announced the official opening of a Global Services Office in Brussels, Belgium, establishing itself as the first multinational membership association serving HIM professionals on a global scale. AHIMA selected Brussels, in part, because of the city's worldwide status as the European Union's hub for top decision-making institutions. However, the decision to extend its outreach globally was rooted in the Association's long-standing commitment to accurate health information internationally as the surest means of securing high-quality healthcare. In addition, AHIMA sees its multinational outreach as the proper response to globalization trends and implications in healthcare including digitization, e-health, cross-border care, medical travel and telemedicine.

"We believe that viable health information management (HIM) is necessary for the safe delivery of effective, quality healthcare, and that it should be recognized and practiced around the world," said AHIMA President Vera Rulon. "For a while now, AHIMA has been actively looking into new development opportunities that promise to serve healthcare consumers as well as the greater healthcare community." Rulon said just as important is the ability of AHIMA's transnational outreach to advance HIM's industry standards, grow its certified workforce, and accredit the educational systems required to advance the HIM practice around the globe.

Healthcare Reform and IT Stimulus: ARRA and HITECH

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law on February 17, 2009 by President Obama, has many implications on health information issues and the HIM workforce. AHIMA is actively monitoring, participating and developing resources to assist in understanding the key components of this law and the impact on the industry and practice. Information on healthcare reform will be continually evolving in the next months. Key highlights of important HIM issues include:

- Incentives for adoption of EHRs
- Health information exchange (HIE)
- New privacy regulations (Subpart D of XIII) for both HIPAA and non-HIPAA entities
- HIM workforce opportunities

This website* (<http://www.ahima.org/arra/>*) is dedicated to providing you a central resource center on leading edge information, opportunities, and requirements that will be generated by ARRA. Remember too that weekly updates on ARRA as they happen will be posted on AHIMA's members-only *eAlert.



Application to Serve is Now Available

Volunteer for AHIMA's appointed positions (committees, task forces, workgroups, and practice councils) by completing the online [Application to Serve](#). Complete the application to be considered volunteer positions. Most positions will be appointed by early August, so complete your application early.

The national committee and task force appointments include 17 groups. Among these are the Annual Convention Program Committee, AHIMA Foundation committees, HIM Education Strategy Committee, and six practice councils. [View additional descriptions and a full listing](#). The AHIMA elected positions and nominations forms are also available. These applications are due January 30, 2010. Complete the online [Application to Serve](#) today and reap the benefits of volunteering.



AHIMA Launches New Interactive myPHR.com Web Site

In an emergency, immediate access to your vital health information can mean the difference between life and death. Personal health records (PHRs) often help ease the tension and uncertainty about your health and medical history especially during unexpected healthcare encounters. To increase its PHR public outreach, the American Health Information Association (AHIMA) today launched the new myPHR.com Web site that will channel important health information to healthcare consumers, including the seven audience segments most inclined to embrace PHRs – parents, students, seniors, caregivers, chronically ill, travelers and athletes.

“Being actively involved in your personal healthcare is paramount to sustaining and improving your health,” said AHIMA Board President Vera Rulon, MS, RHIT, CCS. “The personal health record is a key to gaining control and improving your health. AHIMA’s myPHR.com provides you with the tools you need to start and maintain your own PHR.”

Typically, healthcare consumers who actively participate in their own care have better results. The seven populations highlighted on myPHR.com are more apt to quickly realize the benefits of PHRs in managing their health information and their healthcare. For this reason, content and resources on the new Web site have been created to specifically address their needs. Each audience segment features recent news and success stories on health-related topics that are pertinent to a specific community, frequently asked questions are now more relevant to each audience segment, and the helpful links tool has been customized for each audience section. Other new content includes:

- Critical information on medical identity theft
- Audience-specific blogs written by accredited health information management professionals
- Blog commenting features for visitor interaction
- News specific to PHRs and health information
- Events calendar for nationwide health-related activities



“I truly enjoy visiting the Web site to check out the tools and resources, and to receive information related to privacy and PHRs,” said Valerie J.M. Watzlaf, Ph.D., RHIA, FAHIMA, Associate Professor, Department of Health Information Management, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh. Being an editor to the PHR blog gives Watzlaf another opportunity to educate others on information related to PHRs and to discuss issues about them. “It is a wonderful site and I am thrilled to be a part of it.”

Regardless of what product is used to create PHRs—paper or electronic files—the ultimate goal is to properly build and regularly maintain them because PHRs can be a valuable communication tool between healthcare consumers and healthcare providers. Comprehensive PHRs that include a complete medical history and an accurate and updated patient profile—including current prescriptions and over the counter medications, allergies, blood-type, chronic diseases, major illnesses and surgeries, tests results and dates, family history, and physicians’ names and contact information—can be essential to understand diagnoses, conditions and procedures.

Visit the new myPHR.com for information on creating and maintaining your own PHR. This Web site provides public education on privacy and security issues, free health forms, videos of personal PHR stories, glossary of terms, PHR products and services, and more.

Bylaws Amendments on the Commission on Certification

During June, the House of Delegates (HOD) voted and passed bylaws amendments on the Commission on Certification (COC). The motion is for the Commission on Certification of Health Informatics and Information Management Professionals bylaws amendments as outlined in article IX of the bylaws. The first proposed change is a modest revision to the name of the Commission; the second proposed change is a modest revision to the powers and duties of the Commission. The [bylaws amendments](#) (you will be required to log in) are posted in the Community Resources section of the State Leaders and HOD Community, category “Action Items.” The changes are reflected in the revised bylaws which are posted in the Body of Knowledge.



Next Generation CoP is Almost Here

The Communities of Practice (CoP) first debuted in October 2001 to allow members to network with one another and share content. Now the CoP is being revitalized. Based on your feedback and suggestions, a new system is currently under construction that will be easier to navigate and include social media features.

Some of the new great features that you will find on your Personal Page are new sections entitled, "What's New" and "What's Popular". Additionally, your profile functionality has been expanded so you will be able to track the items you have posted and see the interest it generates from other members. Other new items will include e-mail or RSS feed notifications, posting content to one area, and bookmarking content. The key to the new system is what you want to share, not where. For each topic, you can add links, documents, collaboration, or threads. Members will also be able to rate items, bookmark them, and contact the author.

The new CoP will be unveiled in early 2010. A preview of the site will be available at the AHIMA Convention and Exhibit October 3-8. Updates on development will be available in upcoming issues of *AHIMA Advantage*, the weekly e-alert, and on the CoP.

August Hot Topics Survey

As the article above reports, the Communities of Practice (CoP) will be getting a face lift soon. Did you know there are currently more than 140 different communities to choose from in the CoP and that when members join AHIMA, they are automatically added to the AHIMA community CoP.? This community is the "town hall" or meeting place for all members. Items of interest to the entire association are posted in this community including copies of the weekly e-alert and helpful links.

This month's survey asks our readers if they take advantage of the CoP?

1. I regularly visit the CoP.
2. I visit the CoP infrequently.
3. I never visit the CoP.



[Click here to take the survey.](#)

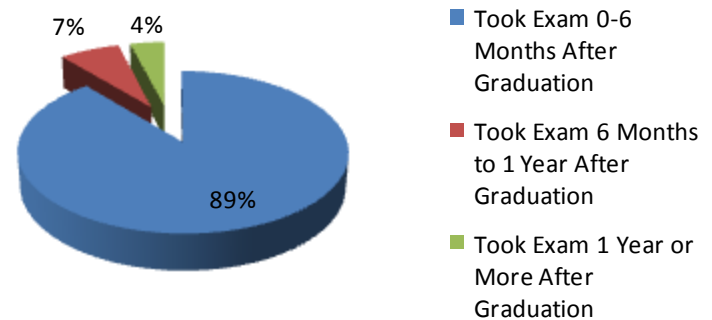
Hot Topics Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who took last month's survey. The July survey asked readers how soon after graduating did they sit for their RHIT or RHIA certification exam? As AHIMA's exam data shows, the earlier a student tests after graduation, the higher the odds are for passing.

As the chart shows, 89% of the voters reported that they took the exam within 6 months of graduation, 7% said they took their exam 6 months to one year after graduating and 4% responded that it was more than one year after graduation.

We hope you enjoy taking our surveys and seeing the results. The August survey results will be reported in the September issue.

How Soon After Graduation Did You Take the RHIA/RHIT Exam?



AHIMA Announces Certification Exam Discount



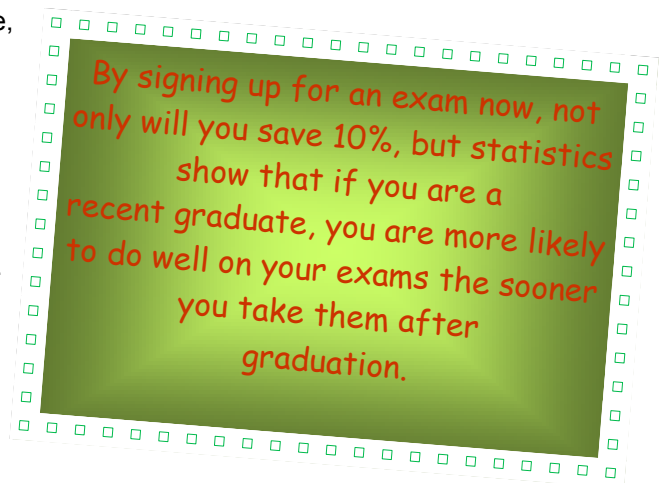
AHIMA is pleased to offer a 10% discount on RHIA, RHIT, CCA, CCS, and CCS-P certification exams during the month of August.

By signing up for an exam now, not only will you save 10%, but statistics show that if you are a recent graduate, you are more likely to do well on your exams the sooner you take them after graduation. Whether or not you are a recent graduate, now is a great time to [register and save!](#)

The 10% discount is in effect through August 31, 2009. To be eligible, all mail-in registrations need to be postmarked no later than August 31, 2009, and arrive complete with payment. Online forms need to be submitted with payment on or before August 31, 2009.

Need exam preparation help? AHIMA offers assistance and links to recommended exam prep resources in the [Exam Preparatory Arena](#).

For pricing details/info: www.ahima.org/certification



Early Bird Savings for the AHIMA Convention— October 3-8, 2009



Planning to attend the AHIMA Convention and Exhibit in Grapevine, TX, but haven't signed up yet? The early bird discount deadline is almost here! Members, who register by September 4, pay only \$499 while nonmembers pay just \$710! No matter what you pay, you gain a great return in amazing speakers, networking and educational opportunities, events, and exhibits:

- Newly appointed HHS National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (HIT) Dr. David Blumenthal, MD, MPP, and Wall Street Journal columnist Jeffrey Zaslow, co-author of international bestseller *The Last Lecture*, will both be speaking.
- The future of HIM is being created now. Prepare for big changes including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation, and recovery audit contractor (RAC) programs.

For more information, call (800) 335-5535, or visit <http://www.ahima.org/events/convention/>. And remember to register by September 4, to take advantage of early bird savings!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

MHIMA –August, 2009

8/20/09
 5:30 pm to 6:00pm pm

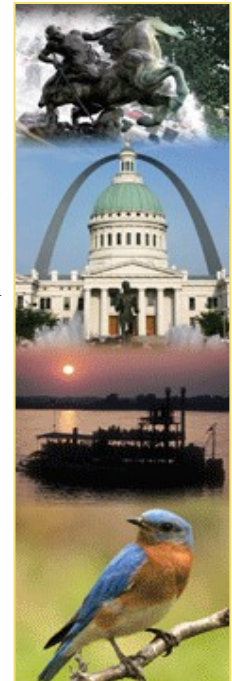
KCHIMA Meeting
 Who: Speaker will be: FBI spokesperson

Topic: State medical/legal discussions.
 Meeting will be in conjunction with the AHDI Group
 (Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity) MT Group.

Where: Cerner Corporation

Directions: Walker Building 2850 (there is a spire and a flag pole) it is the main entrance when you drive up the hill on the left. Go in through the main entrance door and up the spiral staircase.

You may park in front of the 2800 building in the visitor parking.



8/22/09
 8am to 12 pm

EMHIMA Coding Roundtable
 Facilitator-Maggie Gambill

St. Clare Hospital
 Conference Room C
 Fenton, Mo

Directory

MHIMA Board Directory

Jeff McGraw, RHIT
 President, Chief Delegate

Jennifer Melvin, RHIA
 President-Elect

Julie Wolter, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA
 Past President

Barb Beckett, RHIT
 Director of Communications

Regina Everett, MPA, RHIA
 Director of Education

Julie Dooling, RHIT
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Diane Swift, RHIT
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Mary Jellinek, MS, RHIA
 Annual Meeting Chairperson

Ann Nowlin, RHIT
 Central Office Coordinator

Sharon Farley, RHIA
 Treasurer

Sue LaBonte, RHIA, CHP
 2nd Year Delegate

Jane DeSpiegalaere-Wegner, RHIA, CCS
 1st Year Delegate

Michelle Kornfeld

Regional Links

[Click Here for Eastern Missouri](#)



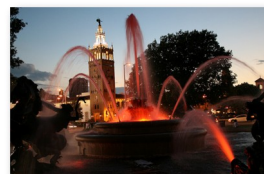
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[Click Here for Mid Missouri](#)



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[Click Here for Pony Express](#)

