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2004**

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## OUR MISSION

**The Mission of the  
Michigan Health Information  
Management Association  
is to be Michigan's expert voice  
on health information.**

*Michigan Health Information Leaders*

## MHIMA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2004 MHIMA Leadership Conference began at 8:30 am on July 30, 2004, with networking and a continental breakfast. At 9:05 am, Tracy Brown, RHIA, MHIMA President welcomed all attending.

Each person introduced themselves and spent a few minutes talking about their work and personal lives. Those attending were:

Tracy Brown, MHIMA President/ Delegate, Consultant, and Part Time Instructor at Baker, from Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall;

Sally Rynberg, MSA, RHIA, MHIMA President Elect/Data Work Group Project Manager who is the Manager of Data Standards for Trinity Information Services in Farmington Hills;

Charlie Robinson, RHIT, Vice President MHIMA, Midwest Coding Operations Manager for MedQuist and Part Time Consultant for Plante & Moran;

Alison Miller, RHIA, MHIMA Delegate who is the Utilization/ Appeals Coordinator at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak;

Rochelle Cooper, RHIA, MHIMA Nominating Chair/Project Manager of QIO/HPMRP and Director of Education and Coding Compliance at William Beaumont Hospital;

Janna Baxter, RHIA Treasurer for SWMHIMA;

Karen Schmidt, RHIT, MHIMA Legislative Project Manager, who is Director of HIM at Henry Ford Hospital System;

Marsha Allen, RHIA, MHIMA Central Office Coordinator;

Chris McCann, RHIA, MHIMA 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director who is a Systems Analyst for Trinity Information Services in Farmington Hills;

Paul Rice, RHIT, Michiana HIMA Treasurer who is the Outpatient Utilization Review Coordinator for Madison Center and Hospital in South Bend, Indiana;

Connie Klein, RHIT, CCS-P, MHIMA Director and President Mid MI HIMA who is the Lead Coder at Synergy Medical Education Alliance in Saginaw;

Denise Holstege, RHIT, MHIMA Delegate/ FOCUS Editor who is Manager of Medical Records at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon;

Michele Wills, RHIA, MHIMA Delegate and Education Project Manager who is the Medical Records Supervisor and Communications Advisor at Caro Center in Caro;

Rita Montague, RHIT, President SEMHIMA who is a Senior Research Analyst/ Abstractor for Henry Ford Health System;

Michelle Mercieca, RHIT, President Elect SEMHIMA who is a Data Specialist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Oakland; and

Leslie Mack, RHIT, Past President Director who is Director of Health Information Management for Care Tech Solutions in Troy.

# MHIMA Publication Staff

•••••  
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**for November/December issue:**  
**October 15, 2004**

**Please forward articles in hard copy  
or on disk to the Editor.**

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## **MHIMA Leadership Conference** (continued from page 1)

Karen Ruehl, RHIA, Secretary-Treasurer who is an Account Representative for 3M Health Information Systems.

The Regional Associations gave updates and talked about strategies that were successful for them. Rita Montague, RHIT, mentioned that South East MHIMA has had 5 seminars so far this year. They will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their September meeting. This year's Board re-wrote the job descriptions for the Board positions to try to help recruit. R. Montague stated the positive for SEMHIMA this year is that they have been able to have many sessions. The negative to holding all of the programs is that there was no program chair. She also mentioned that an AHIMA member from Ohio wanted to serve on their Board, but there is nothing in the bylaws about this. There was some discussion about this, and most felt that if she is not a Michigan member she could serve on a committee, but it may not be appropriate for her to serve on the Board. Regional Associations can set their own bylaws though and if she is a SEMHIMA member and their bylaws allow it then it would be okay. M. Allen will see what AHIMA thinks about this as a bylaw issue.

Rice, RHIT presented a folder with information on what Michiana HIMA has done that has been successful. They have 53 members for 2003-04. Their association year runs from August to April. They hold scheduled meetings in August, September, October, November, February and March, which are usually for two CE hours. They usually hold an all day seminar in April, which is for 6 CE credits. They notify members of receipt of the registration for the all day seminar. They charge \$10.00 for dues each year. The treasury balance increased by \$300.00 from the beginning of the business year until the end. Some of their past speakers have included; Linda Kloss, AHIMA Executive Vice President/CEO, Anita Hazelwood – AHIMA Legacy Award winner, and Carol Jennings. These speakers often speak very reasonably and are willing to negotiate. They rotate between Michigan and Indiana for their meetings. The all day seminar is held by whoever volunteers to host it. Paul included a copy of their membership cards and application for membership, samples of brochures from several of the seminars they presented. The monthly meetings are usually held in the evening. Since there is a time difference from Michigan to Indiana this has caused some issues with attendance. They often have roundtables,

and panel discussions. They have developed questions for members to complete to allow them to participate in the discussion. They have the problem that no one wants to run for office. Paul also stated that Michiana appreciates how much MHIMA does a lot for the regional associations.

He also mentioned that they have had some "Lunch and Learns", but those are usually only attended by the employees at the hospital that is hosting. It is difficult to get away in the middle of the day for two hours.

Connie Klein, RHIT, CCS from Mid MHIMA announced that they are getting ready for their fall conference on October 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the new hotel in Bay City. Their Keynote speaker will be Michael Stuebin from the Outback series. He worked with them on his fee and lowered it to \$1300. They held seminars in March and April and an all day coding seminar at Baker College. They also sent information to Dr. offices about the coding seminar. They used the telephone book to get addresses to invite them. They are still trying to keep costs as low as they can to allow more members to attend. They also have difficulty getting members to run for office. Connie mentioned that in her position with MHIMA as Director, she would like to attend meetings in other regions.

M. Allen mentioned that Bonnie Owens, RHIT from North Central MHIMA had a department emergency develop and was unable to attend. They have not had a formal meeting in a couple of years, but several of the members have been getting together informally again and are going to try to schedule some meetings.

D. Holstege stated that NWMHIMA has not met in a couple of years either. No one wants to take responsibility for seminar planning. The same people in the past planned the meetings and then no one attended them. They have become tired of scheduling meetings and then having to cancel them due to lack of attendance. Ferris used to sponsor the October seminar and students planned it, but that practice was discontinued. The area covers from Traverse City to Muskegon and across the middle of the state. The problem with this region is that many people have to drive a couple of hours to attend a meeting. Perhaps the fact that the meetings were all day long was a problem. Many people could not get away for a whole day.

M. Allen mentioned that the past year MHIMA was successful in providing two video seminars



## Spotlight on AHIMA/MHIMA

to the Upper Peninsula MHIMA so at least they are able to get some CE's. In the past MHIMA has also provided Program In a Box to them for CE credits as well.

Janna Baxter, RHIA from SWMHIMA told the group that they had a four-hour meeting this year already and plan a Coding presentation in November.

There was some discussion by those attending about a good time and/or day for meetings. Several thought that the evening meetings worked better for members who do not get paid for the time off, which now is most members. Facilities do not pay for external CE's like they used to.

T. Brown distributed copies of the map of Michigan outlining the regional associations. There was some discussion of combining or changing regional lines. It was decided that member have their choice where to join and the dividing lines are not that important.

T. Brown brought up the topic of the Education Committee and Coding Roundtables for the year.

The thought is that when seminars are presented in an area, a Coding Roundtable could be added the last two hours. There was then discussion about MHIMA sponsoring one seminar in each region per year that includes the Coding Roundtable. This would be especially helpful in the areas that have not held any seminars. M. Wills suggested that the Education Committee would like to plan coding roundtables for two hours in each region, these could be done separately as well during lunchtime or in the evening. She asked that any region willing to schedule a shared seminar to contact her.

T. Brown also mentioned that we have had discussion with MHA about presenting coding seminars statewide. Currently MHIMA is competing with them instead of collaborating with them. The suggestion was made that the Coding Roundtable be added to all coding seminars, and that ICD 9 and CPT be done separately. There are also new national initiatives being introduced. The need for E&M coding presentations was also requested. There should be more focus on the professional side of coding. The suggestion was made to review the telephone book for doctor offices that might be interested in the education.

T. Brown then told everyone that there is a new

law that you must offer an opt-out list before you can send information for seminars. AHIMA offers a separate list with those members listed who opt-out of receiving mailing. Using the phone book would be allowable, but to send to our members they need to be on the list allowing that. R. Cooper would like to get a listing of AAPC members in Michigan. P. Rice suggested attending a regional meeting for a list since he has seen them available at those meetings. M. Allen will see if she can purchase a membership list and send mailings to their members.

If any of the regions have set up their seminars for the year, it would be good to know so MHIMA does not schedule seminars to conflict. The same seminar could be set up in each region. There was discussion about what kind of educational sessions members would like besides coding. There should be more videoconferencing to the hospitals that cannot send members to attend. Using colleges or hospitals could be more cost effective than hotels. K. Ruehl suggested mentoring to get more members involved in wanting to run for office. Each Board member can mentor a person and get them involved in the Association. Other suggestions were: Coding; E & M – Professional and proposed facility E & M, Videoconference, ICD –9 Update, CPT Update, Inpatient and Outpatient updates, HIPAA Security for 2005, and collaborations with local/regions and billing professionals.

Important information from the AHIMA Team Talks and Leadership Conference was presented and discussed by those attending. The pertinent information from both of those AHIMA conferences is included in separate articles in this issue of FOCUS.

*Submitted by:  
Marsha Allen, RHIA*

Deepest sympathy  
to the family of  
Elizabeth Lezovich  
who passed away  
in August.

### CoP News You Can Use

Community Resources are papers or other documents members want to share with each other – sample forms, guidelines, presentations, etc. The Community Resources panel shows these resources as links grouped by category. Each link provides the type, size, author's name, and date and time it was submitted. You can easily access them in each of the communities you belong.

### Viewing Community Resources Listed

The number of resources shown on the Community Page is limited by available space, and only the most recently posted items are listed. Use the following instructions to view one of the resources listed.

1. Click on the **Resource** link. Your browser downloads the file onto your hard drive, then opens it using the appropriate application. You can read or print the document.
2. Click "**Back**" on your browser window to bring the CoP page back to the front.

### Viewing All Community Resources for the Current Community

You can also view the entire list of posted resources for the community you're currently visiting.

1. Click the **View All** link. The screen displays all resources.
2. You have several options for viewing. You can:
  - Scroll to view the full list
  - Click the links at the top of the columns and resort the full list for easier viewing: by category, URL, Submitted By, and Submitted On
  - Click the drop-down list box to select and display a single category
3. Click the link to view the resource. Your browser opens it using the appropriate application. **Note:** You can right click to save the file on your hard drive.
4. When you're finished viewing the list, click the **Community Home** link to return to the CoP home page.

# President's Message



## AHIMA CEO Linda Kloss Ranked Number 20 on "Most Powerful" List

What an exciting year we have coming for the membership! MHIMA Leadership conference was held on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. Chairing this meeting provided an opportunity for me to see how truly blessed the association is at the State and Regional levels with committed volunteers overseeing the future of our association. Many thoughtful, insightful and highly motivational ideas were shared. One exciting change will be in the area of education.

The Education Strategy, chaired by Michele Wills, RHIA, will be providing one educational session in collaboration with each of the regional associations. This will provide the regional associations more opportunity for higher caliber sessions with the minimal resources that are available to them. There are currently plans being developed for a coding update with the SEMHIMA region for 2005 ICD-9 and CPT. These collaborations will also be good in the sense that MHIMA and the Regionals will not be duplicating topics. The Regional associations will still continue to have other, non-collaborative sessions, but at least one a year will be with MHIMA. Another consideration that will be proposed to the membership is one of converting the scholarship process to one of helping support the recruitment of new members. More on this topic as it develops.

MHIMA continues to move our profession forward with innovative and collaborative thinking of our Board members and many project volunteers. The association is taking these steps with the responsibility of supporting our philosophy of being the health information specialists.

I have recently read the definition of a Profession. I felt that it was so true to our goals and values as an association. These elements are being practiced on a daily basis personally and professionally, with the decisions that are made within our profession. Our change in focus to collaborate with our Regional associations on our educational programs is

good example.

Organizational theory teaches that there are six characteristics of a profession:

- It is intellectual, carrying with its standards of education and practice with high personal responsibility.
- It is based on systematic, theoretical views and ideas that are readily researched and published
- It has a relationship with professional colleagues regulated by a Code of Ethics
- It has a formal professional association supporting a professional philosophy and culture
- It is well organized internally
- It is recognized legally by a certification board staffed by professional members

Reading these six elements clearly demonstrates that as members of AHIMA and MHIMA, we are truly a profession. One to be proud of. It demonstrates why AHIMA is working so hard for the association to gain access to more recognition of what our profession brings to the healthcare arena. On an individual basis, it should make us feel good to realize that we are professionals that work, not workers in a profession. I hope to bring these pillars to the forefront with future correspondence. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

*Tracy Brown, RHIA  
MHIMA President*

The ballots have been cast and counted for *Modern Healthcare's* third annual ranking of the "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare" and AHIMA executive vice president and CEO Linda Kloss, RHIA, CAE, has made the list again this year. Kloss, ranked at #20 on this year's list, is one of only 35 people to make the list in each of the three years the ballot has been conducted—moving up significantly from #70 last year. This year's list contains 28 women and 72 men from both public and private sectors of healthcare. Find out who holds the number one spot as well as the 99 others who made the 2004 list of healthcare's most influential leaders by visiting: <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/page.cms?pageId=904&potId=100Most>

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## TREASURER'S REPORT



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## MHIMA MEMBERSHIP SEPTEMBER 2004

### MICHIGAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

CODE	CLASSIFICATION	MEMBERSHIP 7-7-04	MEMBERSHIP 9-2-04	CHANGE
10	Active RHIT/RHIA CCS/CCS-P/CCA	1508	1515	+7
11	Active Senior	29	29	-
20	Associate	136	175	+39
21	Student	400	386	-14
	New Grad	0	14	+14
	Honorary	1	1	-
50	Corporate	13	13	-
		2087	2133	+46
	Certified Nonmembers	951	952	+1*

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN CHOOSING YOUR CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP, BE AWARE YOUR CHOICE OF SELECTING A STUDENT CLASSIFICATION MAY PREVENT YOU FROM VOTING IN NATIONAL AND STATE ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS.

\*AHIMA changed the way they count these members.  
The number includes all previous members even if dues have not been paid.

*Be creative  
and  
informative!*

If you would like to contribute  
to an upcoming issue of  
FOCUS

please e-mail the editor  
at [dholsteg@hackley-health.org](mailto:dholsteg@hackley-health.org)

# — AHIMA SUMMER TEAM TALKS —

## **AHIMA Report**

The election results were announced. The new AHIMA President Elect is Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA, who is a graduate from Ferris State University. The results of the voting strength for the election from all states was reviewed. Michigan's participation was only 6.8%, which is down from last year's number of 7.3%.

The Goals and 2005 Strategic issues were reviewed briefly. The goals are;

1. **e-HIM** – Creating a national health information infrastructure (NHII), including full deployment of electronic health records (EHR) and personal health records (PHR) in 10 years requires new and adapted health information management work processes and practices; to insure future professional relevance, electronic health information management (e-HIM) must become a reality for all members of the AHIMA community and the organizations they serve.
2. **Education and Certification** – Professional education at the associate, baccalaureate and masters degree levels must prepare graduates to succeed in an electronic health information management environment and entry-level certification must reflect the changing roles and competencies.
3. **Outreach** – The evolving health information management profession is not well known or understood by the general public and by many in health care and this makes it more difficult to provide valuable services to our employers and to consumers.
4. **Success by Association** – AHIMA members judge the value of their experience based on interactions with local, state and national components of the over Association so it is important that all components work together to deliver maximum value.

All members participated in trying to develop a professional identity for the HIM Professional that will be able to be explained to and understood by everyone. There will further details discussed regarding this as the model is developed.

*Marsha Allen, RHIA  
Central Office Coordinator*

## **AHIMA'S RHIA Proviso (The Window of Opportunity)**

About 5 years ago a proviso was enacted to allow members with an RHIT certification and a bachelor's degree (in any subject) to sit for the RHIA exam. This "Window of Opportunity" is set to end on December 31, 2004. AHIMA's Board of Directors has asked the Council on Certification (COC) to revisit this issue and provide a recommendation to the House of Delegates. Over the past year, the COC has conducted extensive research regarding whether the Proviso should be extended or not. Their research took several forms. They interviewed two focus groups (HIA and HIT educators) in June of 2003 and in July 2003, a web-based survey was conducted among a group of members who had applied to take the RHIA exam making use of the Proviso. Based on the research, the COC then developed a series of "Pros" and "Cons" in favor of closing the window at the end of 2004. These "pros" and "cons" were shared during Team Talks this past winter and summer. There was active discussion at the Team Talks and also on some State Leadership COP in threaded discussions and chats. The motion your delegates will need to vote on in October read as follows: Move to extend the RHIA exam Proviso as follows: "An individual credentialed as an RHIT by

12/31/05 with a baccalaureate degree would be eligible to take the RHIA certification examination through 12/31/07." Please feel free to contact any of your delegates to share your opinion on how we should vote for this issue. A list of the current MHIMA delegates is at the MHIMA website. You can also go to the AHIMA website and do your own research on this topic or go to the Communities of Practice and read all the discussions.

*Alison Miller, RHIA  
Delegate*

## **Delegate Workgroup**

I had the privilege of being nominated to the Delegate Workgroup to help prepare for the 2004 House of Delegates. I was also subsequently chosen by the other members to be the Chair of the Workgroup. There were five other members from all over the United States. Our AHIMA Staff Liaison was Lorraine Smalley and our AHIMA Board Liaison was Barbara Siegel, MS, RHIT.

Throughout the past year, we have had several conference calls to discuss topics such as the Role of the Delegates and Delegate Orientation information. This should be especially helpful to those new delegates who have never served as a delegate or attended a session of the House. Another topic we discussed was member outreach. We all know how important it is to make sure our members-at-large are actively involved in our Association's activities.

We also discussed how to best use the State Leader and HOD CoP's to discuss information year round to take action on important issues. In June, the House successfully voted on four issues electronically: Bylaw amendments for the Council on Accreditation, a revision to the Code of Ethics, a transition plan for students-to-active membership dues and the Council on Certification's incorporation of the HIM Professional Definition and the educational experience categories in the Standards. These issues were brought up for discussion since the last House. We were able to use the CoP to bring closure to these issues, rather than wait a full year for the next House.

The Workgroup actively discussed two issues prior to Summer Team Talks including delegate apportionment and the RHIA Proviso. Delegate Apportionment had been discussed in past, however, our Workgroup felt it was important enough to reconsider. Because the size of our organization continues to grow, the Workgroup tried to determine the effects on our ability to efficiently do business if the size of the House grows proportionally. The RHIA Proviso discussion centered around extending the current window of opportunity that allows RHIT's with a Bachelors Degree to take the RHIA exam. That window is nearly closed and we wanted to address any concerns or consequences that might arise as a result.

The delegates attending Summer Team Talks did not feel the Delegate Apportionment Issue was an important issue, so it will not be addressed. The RHIA Proviso issue will be discussed in an Issue Forum and we will be asking delegates to provide final input prior to a summary that will be presented to the whole House in its afternoon session.

I really enjoyed working with the Delegate Workgroup this past year. I would encourage any of our members to volunteer to run for a delegate position. As members, we must look at tough issues. The opportunity to help influence the direction of our Association, gain valuable information first hand and make many new friends are just a few of the most enjoyable benefits.

*Michele Wills, RHIA  
Delegate*





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## **Framework for Strategic Action Caps off Historic Week in Healthcare**

On July 21 at the Secretarial Summit in Washington, DC, Tommy Thompson, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and David Brailer, national coordinator for health information technology, reviewed HHS's "Framework for Strategic Action," the 10-year plan by the end of which every person in the US would have an electronic health record. The proposed coordination within the federal government, as well as between the public and private sectors, is unprecedented.

The strategic framework contains four goals and 12 strategies. The four goals are:

1. Informing clinical practice
2. Interconnecting physicians
3. Personalizing care
4. Improving population health

HIM roles and responsibilities will be central to many of the goals and strategies. To read the report, titled "The Decade of Health Information Technology: Delivering Consumer-centric and Information-rich Health Care," go to [http://www.hsrnet.net/nhii/materials/strategic\\_framework.pdf](http://www.hsrnet.net/nhii/materials/strategic_framework.pdf).

## **EHI/HRSA Award Nine Communities with Local Infrastructure Grants**

The Foundation for eHealth Initiatives (eHI) and the Health Resources and Services Administration awarded nine communities with grants under the eHI's Connecting Communities for Better Health programs during the HIT Summit last week. Each of the communities has or will establish a local health information network or infrastructure. The nine communities include Connecting Colorado (Denver), Indiana Health Information Exchange (Indianapolis), MA-SHARE MedsInfo e-Prescribing Initiative (MA), MD/DC Collaborative for HIT (Baltimore-Washington), Santa Barbara County Care Data Exchange (CA), Taconic Health Information Network and Community (NY), Tri-Cities TN-VA Care Data Exchange (Kingsport), Whatcom County e-Prescribing Protect (WA), and Wisconsin Health Information Exchange (Milwaukee). Members in these areas might want to check into these programs and ensure HIM involvement. Future grants for other communities are also expected from various private and federal agencies. For more information on the eHI grants, go to [http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/news/Awardee\\_PressRelease07202004.msp](http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/news/Awardee_PressRelease07202004.msp)

## **GAO Studies Effectiveness of Joint Commission Deeming Authority**

The General Accountability Office (GAO), previously the General Accounting Office, has completed a study evaluating the effectiveness of the Joint Commission's deeming authority over CMS regulations in its accreditation role. The Medicare Act of 1965 established the Joint Commission as the hospital accreditation body for Medicare payment eligibility. The look-back raised concerns that failure of hospitals to meet CMS regulations is not consistently caught in the Joint Commission surveys. The GAO is recommending escalated federal oversight of the Joint Commission accreditation process in hospitals. The Joint Commission in turn "look(s) forward to working with CMS and the Congress to strengthen

the government's mechanism for oversight of the Joint Commission." Earlier this year, the Joint Commission updated the Professional and Technical Advisory Committee's efforts to increase the alignment between the Joint Commission and CMS. The GAO's full report can be accessed at [http://www.house.gov/stark/news/108th/news\\_2004-07-20\\_GAO-JCAHO.htm](http://www.house.gov/stark/news/108th/news_2004-07-20_GAO-JCAHO.htm)

## **Senator Introduces Healthcare Information Technology Bill**

Following his successful effort in passing S. 720, Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, has introduced the National Health Information Technology Adoption Act (S. 2710). Gregg was joined by Senator Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) and Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) as cosponsors of S. 2710.

The legislation amends the Public Health Service Act to:

- Establish an Office of Health Information Technology within the Department of Health and Human Services
- Provide for the development and adoption of interoperability standards for healthcare information technology systems
- Provide for \$50 million in loan guarantees per year from 2005–2010 for the adoption of health information technology (accompanied by an annual reporting requirement)
- Provide for \$50 million in competitive grants per year from 2005–2010 for the purchase of health information technology (accompanied by an annual reporting requirement)
- Development of standardized measures of quality healthcare for all federally supported health delivery programs by the secretaries of HHS and Veterans Affairs

This legislation has not been scheduled for consideration and will likely be reintroduced in the next Congress because of the limited time available to Congress for consideration of new legislation.

This legislation represents an important component of AHIMA's public policy agenda concerning the national health information infrastructure. For further information on this legislation, visit "Issues and Legislation" under the Advocacy Action Center of the AHIMA Advocacy Assistant at <http://www.ahima.org/dc/aa>.

## **NCVHS NHII Workgroup Drafts Tentative Agenda Topics**

Immediately following the close of the National Health Information Infrastructure 2004 Conference, the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) NHII Workgroup received an update on the conference's proceedings. From the reports, the workgroup developed four primary topic areas, which will receive the bulk of its attention over the coming months:

- NHII rules of the road to include interoperability and legal obstacles/frameworks, conformance testing
- The personal health record
- The research agenda for the NHII, which would explore those areas where the workgroup could complete research into areas where new information could be provided to the Office of Health Information Technology
- Secondary uses of health information to include research, quality, use of data outside of where it is collected, population and public health

*(continued on page 10)*

The issues of certifying health information technology systems and metrics (success measures) will not be reviewed at this time, but the workgroup will revisit their status sometime in the future. The confidentiality issue is being forwarded to the NCVHS Privacy Subcommittee while the NCVHS Standards and Security Subcommittee will take up the issue of how people are identified in the NHII.

For additional information on the NCVHS and its agenda, you can visit the NCVHS Web site at <http://ncvhs.hhs.gov>.

### OCR Unveils Resources on Confidentiality of Alcohol, Drug Abuse Records

Last week the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) listserv highlighted some recent resources for those dealing with privacy questions and issues concerning the confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse records. These resources were developed by the department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and can be found at: <http://www.hipaa.samhsa.gov/Part2ComparisonCleared.htm>. This information, as well as information on signing up for the OCR listserv, also can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>.

### CMS Proposes Revised Civil Money Penalties and Procedures

CMS has published a proposed rule that would establish the procedures for imposing exclusions for certain violations of the Medicare program (69FR43956). The proposed rule can be found in the July 23 *Federal Register* at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a040723c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040723c.html).

### OCR Updates FAQ List with Privacy Questions

The OCR has posted a new FAQ response on its Web site. The response deals with situations in which the privacy rule allows covered entities to disclose PHI to law enforcement officials. The response takes a variety of official inquiries and then specifically addresses how the HIPAA privacy rule addresses these questions. This question and answer can be found by checking the "What's New" section of the OCR site at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>

### Correction of Medicare Minor Billing Errors and Omissions Without Formal Appeal

Issue number SE0420 of *Medlearn Matters*, published by CMS, offers information for providers on how to correct minor billing errors or omissions submitted to Medicare without going through an appeal process such as review or reconsideration. This article provides information on how to correct incomplete or invalid claims submissions, correct mistakes in previously processed claims, reopen claims, and correct HIPAA compliance issues.

The informational article provides instruction on correcting Medicare claims within existing procedures contained in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Pub 100-4 available at: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/104\\_claims/clm104index.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/104_claims/clm104index.asp). The instruction is the result of section 937 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003, and Public Law 108-73, which required the secretary of the HHS to establish a process for physicians, providers, and suppliers to correct minor errors and omissions in claims without pursuing the formal appeals process. To read the *Medlearn Matters* article SE0420, go to: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/SE0420.pdf>

### CMS Publishes Updates to Payment Systems

CMS has recently published updates to various payment systems in the *Federal Register*. These updates include:

#### JULY 30

- Corrections to the proposed rule on the home health prospective payment system rate update
- Updates to the prospective payment rates for inpatient rehabilitation facilities
- Updates to the prospective payment system and consolidated billing for skilled nursing facilities

All three updates can be found at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a040730c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040730c.html).

#### AUGUST 5

- Proposed revisions to payment policies under the physician fee schedule for calendar year 2005. A preview of this document is available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations/pfs/2005/1429p.asp>.

#### AUGUST 11

Final changes to the hospital inpatient prospective payment system. Included in this final rule were a number of comments on the plans for twice a year updates of ICD-9-CM. CMS stated that they will strive to have the April 1 revisions available five months prior to implementation. Look for details in the *Federal Register* to be published on August 11 at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/frcont04.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont04.html).

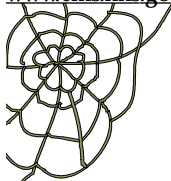
### CMS Issues FY 2005 IP PPS Regulations

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued several changes in the DRG classification system will go into effect for Medicare discharges on and after October 1 per the final regulations issued for the Medicare inpatient prospective payment rule. These changes affect high-reimbursement DRGs involving tracheostomy, heart transplant, heart-assist device implantation, and high-frequency DRGs for cerebral infarction.

Specifics on the changes, published in an August 2 press release from CMS, can be found at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hipps/frnotices.asp> under the heading "part one." The DRG changes begin on page 51 of 401. An important discussion of spinal fusion DRGs begins on page 86 and coding professionals employed at facilities with burn units should carefully review the information beginning on pages 109 regarding burn patients requiring mechanical ventilation. The final rule can be found in the August 11 *Federal Register* at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a040811c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040811c.html).

### CMS Issues Proposed Rule for OPPS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has published its proposed rule for its hospital outpatient prospective payment system (OP-PPS) and 2005 payment rates (69FR50448). **Comments on this regulation are due by October 8**. The final rule, generally issued around the first of November, would be effective January 1, 2005. An initial review of the proposed rule shows a variety of ambulatory payment classification changes, but the proposal once again does not include any change to the facility evaluation and management structure. The proposed rule was published in the August 16 *Federal Register* and can be found at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a040816c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040816c.html)



## OHS Issues FAQs on Security

The Office of HIPAA Standards (OHS) has issued a set of HIPAA security FAQs covering encryption issues, e-mail, computer access and exit, and other questions the office has received regarding the HIPAA security rule requirements that go into effect for most covered entities on April 21, 2005. If you are interested in the security requirements and have not signed up for the OHS list serve, it is available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/maillinglists/default.asp?audience=10>. Select "HIPAA" in the box asking which mailing list you wish to be on. This FAQ is posted in the FORE Library HIM Body of Knowledge and on the OHS HIPAA administrative simplification Web site at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/default.asp>.

## Justice Department Announces First Privacy Prosecution Under HIPAA Rules

The US attorney's office for the Western District of Washington has announced the first prosecution under the privacy prosecution under HIPAA. Richard Gibson of SeaTac, WA, pleaded guilty to wrongful disclosure of individually identifiable information for economic gain. Gibson pleaded to using a cancer patient's information to obtain credit cards under the patient's name and using the cards for multiple purchases. Under the plea agreement Gibson could be sentenced to a term of 10-16 months. He has also agreed to pay restitutions for the purchases and the costs associated with the patient's expenses incurred to restore credit after the identify theft. The courts will make a decision on Gibson's case in early November. To view the US attorney's press release and details, go to the US Department of Justice Web site at: [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/waw/press\\_room/2004/aug/gibson.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/waw/press_room/2004/aug/gibson.htm).

## CMS Seeks Input on Hospital Reporting of Quality Measures

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services seeks feedback on its collection of hospital quality members (69FR51681). The process in question is to collect data to produce "valid, reliable, comparable, and salient quality measures to provide a potent stimulus for clinicians and providers to improve the quality of care they provide. **Comments must be submitted to CMS by October 19.** A copy of the August 20 *Federal Register* notice can be found at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a040820c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040820c.html). Copies of the supporting statement and related forms can be accessed at CMS's Web site at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations/pral/>.

## OCR Announces New Privacy Fact Sheets for Consumers

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) privacy listserv has announced two new fact sheets available on its Web site. The first, "Privacy and Your Health Information," provides a general overview of the HIPAA privacy rule and individual rights associated with the rule. The second, "Your Health Information Privacy Rights," focuses on each of the privacy rights included under the rule. Both sheets can be obtained from the "What's New" section of the OCR Web site at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa>. The PDF format makes it easy for HIPAA covered entities to distribute the document. AHIMA will also be posting this information on its consumer Web site at: <http://www.myPHR.com>

## Contribute to the Future of HIM—Become a Student Mentor

Since February 2003, the AHIMA Mentor Program has worked to promote ongoing dialogue between HIM students and experienced, enthusiastic, and committed HIM professionals willing to contribute to the future excellence of the HIM profession. It has been a wonderful program for both students and mentors. In 2004, the program boasted 24 AHIMA mentors and **we are now looking for new members to serve as mentors from September**

**2004 to August 2005.** Consider volunteering a small portion of your time to help HIM students. Participating in this program means participating in the future of the profession.

If you are interested in becoming an AHIMA mentor, please log in to the Communities of Practice and read the guidelines at: <http://www.ahimanet.org/COP/Student/Resources/Attachment.fusion?AttachmentID=8632>. If you decide to become an AHIMA mentor, please fill out the mentor form at: <http://www.ahimanet.org/COP/AHIMA/Resources/Attachment.fusion?AttachmentID=7089> and e-mail it to: [theresa.reynolds@ahima.org](mailto:theresa.reynolds@ahima.org) or fax it to 312-233-1159.

*(From AHIMA E-Alert 7-29-04, 8-5-04, 8-12-04, 8-19-04, and 8-26-04)*



# FOR THE RECORD

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## HEALTH INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Dear Health Information Management Professional:

You work hard to make valuable contributions to healthcare. But others in your facility, your family, and the general public may be unaware of the impact you make on safe and effective healthcare through health information management (HIM). That's why the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) instituted Health Information and Technology (HI&T) Week 15 years ago. The week has been a phenomenal success, growing each year as an excellent opportunity for both education and celebration.

For 2004, we're celebrating our profession and educating people on its importance November 7 through 13. This year's theme reflects the important work you do: "Health Information: Powered by Professionals". Your hard work, effort, and professionalism all go into paving the way for the future of healthcare and its transition to a more secure and electronic environment. The week is a way to let everyone know about how you make important contributions to health information, so that the knowledge advances the cause of quality healthcare.

Enclosed, you'll find everything you need to make the week a success in your facility. Use this kit's components in whatever way best suits your facility, and don't be afraid to come up with your own ideas. Your kit contains:

- Commemorative merchandise, with all-new products to enhance your activities. Note that all proceeds from sales of merchandise from our official vendor, Bells Select, go to support HI&T week every year.
- A ready-made program you can present to your colleagues, "E-HIM: It Will Transform Your Job!" To download the PowerPoint presentation, simply click on the link, then save the document to your computer. If you want to view the presentation script after you've downloaded the presentation, select "View," and then "Notes Page."
- Quiz, with HIM-related questions
- Fact sheet, with essential HI&T Week information
- Idea sheet, to spark some thought and jump-start your planning
- Press release, an effective way to promote HI&T week to the media
- HI&T Week logos to use in your promotions [ jpg logo | gif logo ]

Here's wishing you a memorable HI&T Week!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda L. Kloss, RHIA, CAE".

Linda Kloss, RHIA, CAE

AHIMA Executive Vice President and CEO

*From AHIMA Web Site – Click on Professional Development and then National Recognition Weeks*

## NEW MEMBERS

Kristal Anspach .....	Lansing	Christina LaVergne .....	Lake Linden
Bob Baldwin .....	Grand Rapids	Deborah Lee .....	Caledonia
Sharon Belott .....	Clio	Carly Maksim .....	Belmont
Brooke Berciunas .....	Marion	Phyllis Mandziara .....	Troy
Tamara Blazo .....	Livonia	Mia Manion .....	Royal Oak
Carol Boose .....	Big Rapids	Susan McConnell .....	Alpena
Diana Brogran .....	Kimball	Donna Meeks .....	Allen Park
Julie Clark .....	Owosso	Nancy Mettlach .....	Big Rapids
Faith Collier .....	Grand Rapids	Joan Murff .....	Detroit
Melanie Cook .....	Petoskey	Ashley Ollenburger .....	Big Rapids
April Cox .....	Clinton Township	Tina Ozanich .....	Calumet
Kristen Cox .....	Freeland	Denise Peplinski .....	Traverse City
Sandra Cox .....	Lake Odessa	Susan Petersen .....	Kentwood
Beverly Cornell .....	Parma	Darcey Plotts .....	Newaygo
Leigh Craig .....	Big Rapids	Heather Pohl .....	Big Rapids
Jean Dennerl .....	Jackson	Jeffrey Potter .....	Big Rapids
Ronald Dirkse .....	Holland	Amy Powell .....	Big Rapids
Peggy Douglas .....	Lawrence	Rosa Quezada .....	Brighton
Melissa Drake .....	Big Rapids	Bea Richardson .....	Detroit
Kristin Dudek .....	Eaton Rapids	Katie Roelfsema .....	Falmouth
Janet Dykster .....	Wayland	Carrie Sawdon .....	Big Rapids
Lori Eldred .....	Big Rapids	Pauline Scott .....	Detroit
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Danette Fleming .....	Jackson	Meghan Sohn .....	Big Rapids
Meagan Fleming .....	Big Rapids	Sandra Spring .....	Gregory
Lynn Grabowski .....	Detroit	Julie Stickels .....	Plainwell
Deepika Harish .....	Dearborn	Paula Tolly .....	Hope
Seiko Hoyle .....	Ada	Loni Tomasetti .....	Jenison
Jenna Hamelund .....	Big Rapids	Heather Tumberlinson .....	Livonia
Carol Johnson .....	Big Rapids	Jennifer Tyminski .....	Redford
Julianne Jondro .....	Monroe	Heather Vieau .....	Burton
Kelly Kar .....	Livonia	LeAnn Ward .....	Grand Rapids
Barbara Kelsey .....	Grand Rapids	Heather Wilson .....	Novi
Cindy Kemske .....	Kimball	Hesper Woods .....	Lansing
Kristen Kendall .....	Muskegon		

Congratulations!

The following members have  
passed examinations!

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Patricia Middleton .....	Saginaw
Deanna Weingarten .....	Republic

### CCS's

Shelly Askew, RHIT .....	Roseville
Denise Holstege, RHIT .....	Muskegon
Lisa Johnston, RHIT .....	Jacksonville, FL
Mary Myers .....	Grand Rapids
Mary Jo Vitton .....	Kingsford

### CCS-P's

Carrie Clark .....	Livonia
John Dugas Jr. ....	Lady Lake, FL
Angela Flood .....	Hazel Park
Cindy Hofstee .....	Caledonia
Nicole Horsch .....	Dearborn Heights
Nancy Keeney .....	Mason
Connie Klein, RHIT .....	Chesaning
Judith Newberry .....	Newaygo
Cheryl Porter .....	Sturgis
Elizabeth Ryan .....	Freeland
Amy Sall .....	Byron Center
Stephanie Wonsey .....	Shepherd
Mia York .....	Waterford

### RHIT's

Joan Gahry .....	Allen Park
Pamela Maes .....	Port Huron
Wendy Mullins .....	Farmington Hills
Aaron Mungar .....	Monroe
Tracy Root .....	Montrose

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## 2003-2004

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3/04	<b>Information Managers &amp; Associates</b> 1200 Judd Avenue SW Wyoming, MI 49509	Erich Hein Account Executive (616) 243-0435	www.iminformation.com
4/04	<b>Business Information Systems</b> 1350 NE 56th St, #300 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334	Roland Leonard Sales Manager Northern Region (800) 834-7674	www.bisdigital.com
5/04	<b>PHNS, Inc.</b> 1255 S. Cedar Crest Blvd. Allentown, PA 18103	David Wright Sales Manager (610) 435-4404	www.phns.com

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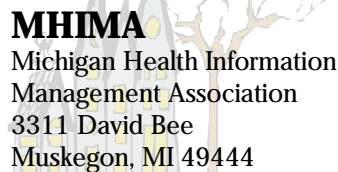
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# Michigan Health Information Management Association

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	SPONSOR	TOPIC	CONTACT	PHONE
10/9-14/04	Washington DC	AHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibit/ IFHRO Health Rec. Cong.	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
10/21/04	Livonia, Michigan	MHIMA	ICD-9 CM/UGS Updates	Central Office	231-767-9717
10/22/04	Grand Rapids, Michigan	MHIMA	ICD-9 CM/UGS Updates	Central Office	231-767-9717
11/18/04	William Beaumont Royal Oak	MHIMA	CPT Updates/Coding Roundtables	Central Office	231-767-9717
11/19/04	Ferris Grand Rapids- Video Conference	MHIMA	CPT Updates/Coding Roundtables	Central Office	231-767-9717
11/19/04	MHA, Lansing, Michigan	MHIMA	Board Meeting	Central Office	231-767-9717
1/21/05	MHA, Lansing, Michigan	MHIMA	Board Meeting	Central Office	231-767-9717
3/18/05	MHA, Lansing, Michigan	MHIMA	Board Meeting	Central Office	231-767-9717
5/18-20/05	Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan	MHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	Central Office	231-767-9717
10/15-20/05	San Diego, California	AHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
5/22-24/06	Dearborn, Michigan	MHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	Central Office	231-767-9717
10/7-12/06	Denver, Colorado	AHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
5/21-23/07	Kalamazoo, Michigan	MHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	Central Office	231-767-9717
10/6-11/07	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	AMHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
10/11-16/08	Seattle, Washington	AMHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
10/3-8/09	Dallas, Texas	AMHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
9/25-30/10	Orlando, Florida	AMHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org



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