News & Views

March 2006

NHIMA — NEBRASKA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of **AHiMA** — American Health Information Management Association®

President's Message

Dear NHIMA Members:

It's almost here and the Board is excited! We hope that the health information professionals in Nebraska (and surrounding states) will take the opportunity to attend our NHIMA Spring Conference in Kearney on April 20-21st.   The first day attendees will participate in the "Moving to E-HIM" presentation designed to educate and prepare us for the transition to electronic health records. The national health information network (NHIN) is closer than ever and this is a great opportunity to set up a strong foundation among our State's health information professionals as we look ahead to the future. Those attending on the second day will gain knowledge on coding compliance. Over 600 brochures have been mailed out but if you know of someone who would benefit from attending this conference, please share the details with them and encourage them to join us in Kearney.

Also held on Friday will be the NHIMA Annual Business meeting. The Annual Report will be available for our members to view by mid-March on the Geographic Nebraska Communities of Practice. Please be certain to read it before the meeting in case you have any questions about a Committee report, the financial report or proposed budget, the proposed Bylaws change that will be voted on, etc. If you are not able to attend the Business meeting, you will still be able to see the Annual report—that's one of the benefits of our electronic world today!

At the Business meeting, we will also be recognizing all of this past year's NHIMA volunteers. Without them we would not be able to keep our organization dynamic and growing. I hope most of them will be able to attend and rightfully be recognized for their commitment to NHIMA with their time and talents.

Lastly, I want to remind you once again that next year's AHIMA National Convention is in Denver so please try to attend. I think you will find the general session speakers inspiring for our profession and the networking with fellow HIM members invaluable. Hope to see you there October 9-12th, 2006!!

Charlene K. Tilson, RHIT

2005-2006 NHIMA President

You don't want to miss out on the AHIMA e-HIM workshop!

This is a great opportunity for HIM professionals to attend a national conference so close to home at a great price. Even though you may not be involved in electronic health record systems at this time, it will be in your future. This is a great way to start your education on e-HIM!

Turning Theory into Practice: The Next Steps for e-HIM®

Understand and master the changes that occur when moving from a paper-based to an electronic health record (EHR) system with Turning Theory into Practice: The Next Steps for e-HIM®, a new one-day workshop. Expert AHIMA staff offer new insight and enhanced comprehension of:
a. Achieving the EHR in the context of organizational challenges
b. Migration path to the EHR
c. Fundamentals of EHR technology
d. Practical e-HIM tools.

Reasons to Attend

1. Cut through the electronic health record (EHR) "noise" and get your arms around the skills you need right now for planning and implementing the EHR.

2. Get ideas on how to get the health information management (HIM) perspective to your organization's planning table for the EHR and to deliver positive messages that will not be viewed as obstructive to the process.

3. Share your organizational challenges with the EHR and planning, and learn from others how they approach the same challenges.

4. See how HIM departmental needs fit in with the EHR and how to analyze your organization's EHR to see if your department's needs will be met.

5. Get an in-depth look at the migration path to achieving the EHR.

6. Hear an up-to-date view of what is happening at the national level on the subject of EHRs, regional health information organizations (RHIOs), and more.

7. Debate the challenges and merits of having an RHIO in your area.

8. Review powerful resources and tools for EHR implementation, including checklists, practice briefs, feature articles, and books.

9. Review case studies to learn about best practices for departments that implemented an EHR.

10. Gain the advantage of networking with peers in every phase of migrating from a paper medical record, through a hybrid state, to a fully electronic health record.

Faculty
Harry B. Rhodes, MBA, CHPS
Carol Ann Quinsey, RHIA

electronic | health information management™

NHIMA Distinguished Member Award Policy

TITLE: DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD   NUMBER: 3.14
EFFECTIVE: 2/4/05

PURPOSE: To nominate an NHIMA member for outstanding NHIMA.
PROCEDURE:
1. Place the nomination for Distinguished Member Award form in <u>News and Views</u> publication prior to the Spring Conference.
2. May also place the nomination for Distinguished Member Award form in with the NHIMA ballot mailing.
3. Nominations are sent to the NHIMA President.
4. After nominations received, contact Board of Directors to vote on the results received.
5. President-Elect orders plaque for Distinguished Member with name and date. This may take several weeks. Flowers may be given at NHIMA business meeting to the distinguished recipient and will also need to be ordered.
6. Announce Distinguished Member Award winner at the end of the Annual NHIMA Business Meeting held during the Spring Conference and present plaque (if available). Flowers may be given to the distinguished recipient at the NHIMA Business Meeting.

See the last page of this newsletter for the Nomination Form – due March 31st.

The NHIMA Membership List is no longer printed in News & Views. However, the NHIMA membership list can be emailed to NHIMA members. Request your list by emailing the NHIMA Central Office at *kim@consulthi.com*.

Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Donna Bernt	Beate Miller	Angela Puls
Kimberly Ferris	Chinh Nguyen	Brittany Sanders
Cynthia Ingram	Aleta Otto, RHIA, CCS	Sandra Simpson
Cheryl Lutzen	Mary Parker	Joan Slizeski, RHIT
Monica Mayer		Carol Tyler, RHIT

NHIMA Scholarship
To download the Scholarship Fund Policy and Application Form, go to
www.nhima.org. Applications are due May 1.

Legislative Update
By Anne Skinner, RHIA – Legislative Chair

Nebraska Legislative Activity

Current Nebraska legislative activity and updates to the following proposed bills can be found at http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/.

- **Proposal to Create a Statewide Immunization Registry (LB949)**

The purpose of LB949 is to provide public and private immunization providers with the ability to track records on both children and adults. The registry would be assigned to the state Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, which will submit a plan to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2006. Costs for administration of the registry would not come from state general funds.

The bill is sponsored by Senator Jim Jensen of Omaha and was first inspired by the success of the Louisiana statewide registry after Hurricane Katrina. Immunization records were easily accessible for displaced children enrolling in different schools after the storm. Currently school nurses in Nebraska spend a substantial amount of time retrieving immunization records for students. A statewide immunization registry would also provide the ability for people needing vaccinations to be founds and notified in the case of an epidemic. Nebraska currently has two immunization registries, but contains records for only 20 to 30% of children in the state, is only available to public providers and has not been modernized over the years. The bill was placed on General File on February 7, 2006. http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/update/pdf_archiv es/2006/issue4.pdf

The Nebraska Immunization Registry Coalition (NE-IRC), a group of interested healthcare providers and professionals, has been formed to advocate for the bill and assist in the development of a strategic plan for the registry. If you are interested in learning more about LB949 please contact Anne Skinner at askinner@unmc.edu.

- **Proposal for Long-term care Insurance Program (LB854)**

Under LB854 a long-term care partnership program would be established and administered by the state Department of Health and Human

Services Finance and Support. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Doug Cunningham of Wausa, allows for an individual to protect their assets and qualify for Medicaid upon exhaustion of benefits under a long-term care partnership program policy. The bill's purpose is to encourage planning for long-term health and discourage the practice of "spending down" to qualify for Medicaid. The bill was placed on General File on February 13, 2006. http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/update/pdf_archiv es/2006/issue6.pdf

- **Proposal to Promote Awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome (LB1088)**

LB1088 would require that every medical facility provides standardized information in print and/or video to all parents of a newborn child before discharge from the facility. The bill was placed on General File on February 2, 2006.

- **Proposal to Collect Healthcare Co-payments from Inmates (LB537)**

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services would collect co-payments for prisoners receiving routine healthcare services under LB537. Sen. John Synowiecki of Omaha introduced the bill that would still allow prisoners access to healthcare regardless of their ability to pay. This bill is a carry over from the 2005 session. http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/update/pdf_archiv es/2005/issue6.pdf

Current National Action Alerts

- **Health IT Bill Calls for ICD-10 by October 2009**

From http://capwiz.com/ahima/issues/alert/?alertid=81 93561

HR 4157 was introduced by Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), Chair of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, and contains provisions that could serve as initial building blocks to achieve a nationwide health information network. HR 4157, the Health Information Technology Promotion Act of 2005 (HITPA), along with a range of health information technology initiatives, the bill calls for the adoption and implementation

of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS as replacements for ICD-9-CM in the US by October 1, 2009. AHIMA supports all of the components of this legislation which also includes:

- Codification of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) that will make the office permanent, so that it will exist in HHS despite any administration change
- Establishment of duties for the ONC, including coordination of the development and maintenance of standards used in health information exchange
- "Safe harbors" under the Medicare Stark and anti-kickback legislation and regulation so that healthcare entities can assist each other in the development and adoption of a standard EHR and a nationwide health information network. This assistance would include training and education
- A study of various state privacy laws and transaction standards and their impact on the electronic exchange of information. If the HHS secretary makes proposals for uniform federal standards to overcome barriers in this regard and Congress does not act, the secretary will be empowered to create a uniform standard for privacy and security of health information
- A report on the activities of the newly created American Health Information Community
- Development of a strategic plan to coordinate implementation efforts for health information technology, HIPAA transaction standards, and coding standards
- The Advocacy Assistant tool (https://secure.ahima.org/dc/aa/) provides an easy way for AHIMA members to write their representatives asking for their support. The letter includes the following text:

> "As a health information management professional and a member of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), I strongly support this legislation and believe one of the most important and practical provisions contained in HR 4157 calls for the adoption

of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS by October 1, 2009.

Coded health data serves as the foundation for billing, claims processing, payment and pricing. The current classification system, ICD-9-CM, was developed and implemented in the 1970's and can no longer capture today's medical knowledge and cannot support the transition to an interoperable health data exchange in the United States. In addition, the procedural coding component of ICD-9-CM has less than 70 remaining unassigned codes and in the near future, will exhaust these codes requiring that existing non-discrete codes be assigned to new procedures. Furthermore, many of the codes now in use do not accurately describe the diagnosis or procedure concepts they are assigned to represent. Combined with the exhaustion of codes, this will have serious implications for quality reporting, research and appropriate payment for advancements in medical technology.

Technology alone will not solve the problems that our healthcare system faces. Technology combined with a robust 21st century classification system is essential, as we need to improve the quality of data in order to reap the full benefits of our investment in health information technology. This legislation makes that possible by requiring HHS to issue a final rule for the adoption of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS to reverse the trend of deteriorating health data and to allow the healthcare industry to prepare for a smooth transition to modern classification systems."

Looking Ahead to the NHIMA Election…

Between 3/22/06 and 4/11/06, the NHIMA election will be held electronically just like the AHIMA National Election. To be sure you can vote without problems and to get email reminders, be sure your AHIMA profile is up to date – most importantly, your email address. If you have questions, contact the Central Office at kim@consulthi.com.

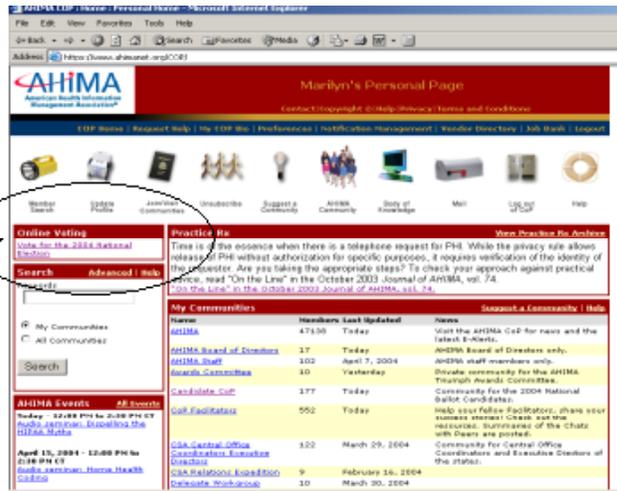### NHIMA ELECTION – Getting started….

Log on to the Communities of Practice and locate the link entitled "Nebraska State Election" located in the top upper left hand corner your personal page in the CoP. The section is located right under the "Member Search," and Update Profile icons.

Eligible voters (Active, Senior, and Honorary AHIMA members holding a valid AHIMA credential as of March 21, 2006) can vote online.

The official voting period begins at 12 a.m. CST on March 22, 2006 and continues until 11:55 p.m. CST on April 11, 2006.

Click on the "Vote Now" button at the bottom of the page to go the ballot page. You will find the names of all the candidates and all the categories for voting. To view a candidate's bio and position statement, click on the name. When you are finished viewing the candidate's biography, click on the "x" in the top right corner to close the window. To vote for a candidate, click on the appropriate checkbox (circle) next to the candidate's name to vote for that person. For the positions of the President-elect, Secretary and Director, you will only be permitted to vote for "one" candidate. You may select no more than "three" candidates for the Nominating Committee positions. When you are finished, click the "Vote" button. The system will confirm your vote and take you back to your personal page. Please note, you can only vote once. If you do not vote for all positions, you cannot go back to vote on those positions.

Exercise your membership privileges. Let's make history by casting votes in record numbers! Cast your vote today!

NHIMA Spring Conference
April 20 & 21, 2006 - Kearney, NE
TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES FOR HIM PROCESSIONALS

Thursday 7:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast
              8:00 Welcome
              8:15 Moving to E-HIM
              5:15 Mix and Mingle

Full conference Flier and Registration Form available
at www.nhima.org OR the Nebraska Geographic CoP

Friday 7:30 Registration
        8:00 NHIMA Business Meeting
        8:45 Matching Silver Bracelets: An Accessory to Avoid (How to Have an Effective HIM Compliance Program)
        10:15 Auditing and Internal Monitoring for Coding Compliance
        12:15 Closing Remarks

Hospital Validation Case Submission – Is it a Priority for Your Department?
by Janet Dooley, RHIA, CPHQ, CIMRO of Nebraska

Each quarter, the Clinical Data Abstraction Center (CDAC) requests five randomly selected records from each hospital who has 6 or more cases accepted into the QIO Clinical Data Warehouse for validation. These records are re-abstracted by the CDAC for reliability scoring.

Hospital Health Information Management Departments are notified by CDAC 30 days before the record submission deadline of records that have been selected for validation. The notifications are sent via Federal Express and contain the selected case information, face sheets and the deadline to submit these records. The face sheet Project Abbreviation Number will end in the letter "V".

The CDAC will not accept records after the deadline. This means the hospital will automatically fail validation and has no grounds to appeal. Hospitals participating in the Annual Payment Update (APU) initiative could potentially have their reimbursement affected for failing validation.

Case Selections for validation are selected around the 25th of the month on a quarterly basis (March, April, September & December).Requests by the CDAC are sent out within the following five days. QNet Exchange Administrators have the capacity to view which cases have been selected by running a Case Selection Report even before the request is delivered.

January 2, 2006, was the most recent validation case submission deadline. Requests for records were sent to hospitals on December 2, 2005, notifying the hospital of which records from 2nd Quarter 2005 needed to be submitted by the January 2, 2006 deadline. The request was delivered via FedEx within four to five days. CIMRO of Nebraska staff reviewed the list of hospitals that had not submitted their validation records by December 27, 2005. As of that date, ten PPS hospitals and 10 Critical Access hospitals had not submitted the requested records. Although, the QIO is not responsible for notifying hospitals of records not received; CIMRO of Nebraska staff contacted the hospitals involved as a courtesy. In general, there was a great deal of confusion as to who received the request from the CDAC. Common responses given were "we never got the request", "what are you talking about?" and "the records have been copied for many days, we just need to send them", etc. Tracking information from CDAC showed the date, time and person signing for the records request and no Nebraska hospital failed to receive a CDAC request.

It's imperative that each hospital has a process in place for timely record submission. Quality Improvement staff and HIM personnel need to work together so the appropriate staff is aware of the records request, the importance of the submission deadline, and the date the records are submitted. We encourage hospitals to submit these records promptly and not wait until days before the deadline to send the records. The CDAC does not accept faxed copies of records. It is important to plan ahead to ensure the records are delivered on time.

If hospitals have questions regarding CDAC record selection for validation, they should contact one of the CIMRO of Nebraska Hospital QI Specialists at 402/476-1399 or 800/458-4262.

CIMRO of NEBRASKA

Resources for better healthcare

NHIMA Policy & Procedure Revisions

The following policies were revised at the February 3, 2006 Board of Directors meeting.

2.20 Conference Committee
This policy was revised to waive registrations for the President at the annual business meeting and to waive registrations for the chair and co-chair of the Conference Committee.
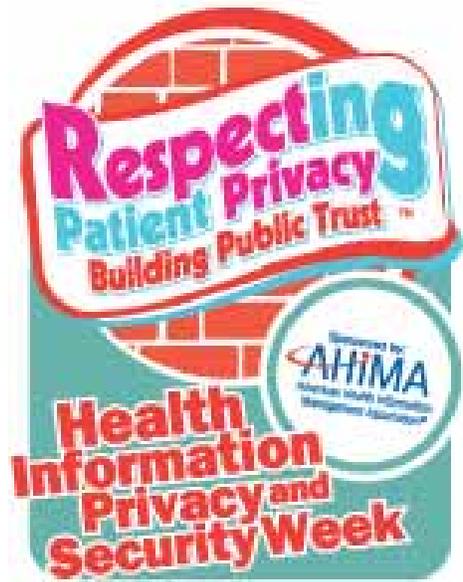
3.11 Annual NHIMA Business Meeting Standing Rules
This policy was revised to remove the requirement of using a microphone, to remove no smoking permitted and minor sentence structure.

3.50 Reimbursement Procedure and 3.50a Expense Report
This policy was revised to reflect numerous updates.

All policies are available for review in the Nebraska Geographic Community of Practice, Resources section (click "View All" and then choose to view the NHIMA Policy Manual).

April 9 – 16, 2006

2006 Winter Team Talks & Capitol Hill Day

Want to spend a day networking with your peers and discovering how AHIMA is working for you the member? You can earn CE units for all events! The 2006 Winter Team Talks meetings will take place:
- March 4 - Seattle, WA - Red Lion Hotel
- March 9 - St. Louis, MO - Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel
- March 15 - Washington, DC Capitol Hill Day – Hilton Garden Inn Hotel (Downtown)
- March 16 - Washington, DC - Hilton Garden Inn Hotel
- March 23 - Houston, TX - InterContinental Hotel

Winter Team Talk Benefits:
- Offers the latest information from AHIMA's Strategic Plan and Association Update
- Affords potential networking opportunities
- Members earn 6 CE hours for the one day conference

For meeting registration, hotel information and shuttle/transportation details, visit http://cop.ahima.org/COP. Go to the State Leader and HOD CoP under category "Winter Team Talks - 2006." Meeting agendas will be posted to the CoP under "Community Resources" shortly. Join us as we continue to share our "Success by Association!

Please feel free to contact Volunteer Services if you have any questions.
Marilyn K. Render - Project Manager, Volunteer Services AHIMA
233 N Michigan Ave, Suite 2150, Chicago, IL 60601-5519
(312) 233-1161 Phone - (312) 233-1461 Fax - marilyn.render@ahima.org

College Spotlight – Clarkson College
Mary Miller, Program Chair

News from the Health Information Management Program at Clarkson College

The Associate Degree program in Health Information Management at Clarkson College was established in the fall of 2000. Since that time the program has grown dramatically. There are currently 54 students in the associate program and 20 students in the Coding Certificate program. The associate program received accreditation in 2004. Our first students graduated in December and we are anxiously awaiting their test results.

The program may be completed via the Internet, on campus or by combining online and on campus courses. This flexibility allows students to continue to work full-time while attending school on a part-time basis. With the online component we have students not only from our immediate area, but also from as far away as Texas and Washington.

We began the bachelor degree program in Health Information Management this fall. This program is also available completely online as well as in the traditional on campus format. We currently have 3 students in this program. The college's partnership with The Nebraska Medical Center allows us to offer our students unique and challenging clinical practice experiences. The college is very supportive of our program and I can't wait to see what we will be doing next.

CLARKSON COLLEGE

2005-2006 Corporate Members

On-Line Imaging

www.on-lineimaging.net

LASON

healthcare.lason.com

2006 Virtual Winter Team Talks

Thursday, March 30, 2006
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 pm CT
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. MT

Sign up for an opportunity to interact by web conferencing with your peers, learn about ongoing plans within the Association, receive comprehensive meeting materials, and share your thoughts on upcoming strategic decisions all free of charge!

Attendees receive two (2) AHIMA CEUs in External Forces.

Registration Form is available in the Resources section of the Nebraska Geographic CoP.

President (Delegate)	President-Elect (Delegate)
Charlene Tilson, RHIT Work: (308) 324-8309 Fax: (308) 324-8311 Email: ctilson@atcjet.net	Donna Keller, RHIT Work: (402) 559-4891 Fax: (402) 559-6200 Email: kellerdf@cox.net
Past President	**Secretary**
Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA Work: (402) 460-3116 Fax: (402) 460-3133 Email: nancy.kinyoun@hhss.ne.gov	Kim Hazelton, RHIA Work: 402-559-4709 Fax: 402-559-9991 Email: khazelton@nebraskamed.com
Treasurer(Delegate)	**1st Year Director**
Ranae Hug, RHIT Work: (402) 274-6150 Fax: (402) 274-4399 Email: rhug@nchnet.org	Stephanie Taylor, RHIA Work: (402) 955-3803 Fax: (402) 955-7193 Email: sjtaylor@chsomaha.org
2nd Year Director (Delegate)	**NHIMA Central Office**
Janet Dooley, RHIA Work: (800) 458-4262 Fax: (402) 476-1335 Email: jdooley@neqio.sdps.org	HealthInfo Innovations, LLC 223 East 14th Street, Suite 240 Hastings, NE 68901 Phone: (402) 463-6111 Fax: (402) 463-6111 Email: kim@consulthi.com

2005-2006 Chairpersons:

Legislative Committee...**Anne Skinner**

**NHIMA Guide for Privacy, Retention &
Disclosure of Health Information** ....**Pam Koch**

Nominating Committee ....**Sharon Zach**

Archivist...**Retha Hudkins**

**Spring 2006 Conference
Committee** ....**Diane Sutko**

**Fall 2006 Conference
Committee** ....**Mary Meysenburg**

Coding Roundtable ....**Theresa Rihanek**

Professional Promotions.......................................**Alison Harms**

NOMINATION FOR DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

Please note that the nomination of this NHIMA member is someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the Nebraska HIM Association!

Nomination submitted by: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____   _____ E-mail: _____
       (home)   (work)

Nominee Name: _____

Address:
(Home/Work)   _____

             _____

Phone: _____   _____ E-mail: _____
       (home)   (work)

Individual notified of nomination: ☐ Yes ☐ No

REASON FOR NOMINATION:

Also, attach supporting information such as current resume, biographical data sheet which includes present employment status, previous position, education, association activities, publications, leadership in education, etc.

SEND NOMINATIONS TO: Charlene Tilson
ctilson@atcjet.net
Fax: 308-324-8311

NOMINATIONS DUE March 31st