

News & Views

September 2009



President's Message

Hello HIM Professionals!



Wow what an exciting time in our career – it is never boring! Healthcare is definitely a hot topic these days. The NHIMA Delegates just returned from AHIMA Summer Team Talks and Leadership meetings where we were empowered to move our profession to move into the future at lightening speed. Healthcare is definitely a hot topic these days. Our profession's time in the spotlight has come! Your organization has probably already experienced many requests for data mining and analysis especially in the coding and reimbursement areas. And of course this has brought to light (again) the importance of clinical documentation in relationship to coded data.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) includes many privacy, security, work force and health IT provisions that will be a major impact on the healthcare industry. The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) outlines many of the health information communication and technology provisions, including privacy. There is \$20.8 billion in incentives available through the Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement systems. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) issued a notice on its plan for the establishment of regional centers to assist health care providers in selecting and implementing certified electronic health records (EHRs) with nearly \$600 million in grant opportunities available. CMS and Health Data Insights (HDI) kicked off the RAC implementation for Nebraska this past week with meetings in both Lincoln and Kearney. There are 7 CMS approved issues already posted on HDI's website. <https://racinfo.healthdatainsights.com/Public/NewIssues.aspx?State=NE>

AHIMA is proposing a restructuring of its delegate apportionment which if it passes in its current format will reduce Nebraska delegates from 5 to 2. The NHIMA Board has opposed this restructuring and it will come for a vote at the AHIMA Convention in Dallas in October 2009. I have posted this topic for discussion for our members on the Nebraska COP.

I could go on with many other topics such as Clinical Documentation Improvement, Hospital Acquired Conditions, AHRQ PSI Indicators, and etc. but will save those for next time around.

Have a great fall, Ranae Race, RHIT - NHIMA President

AHIMA Bylaw Amendment

High Importance to NHIMA Members - A draft amendment to the AHIMA Bylaws has been proposed that decreases the number of NHIMA delegates apportioned. Nebraska currently has five delegates representing our state in the AHIMA House of Delegates. The proposal reduces our number of delegates to two. The NHIMA Board has been following this proposal and opposed the new apportionment methodology. Please contact a [Board member](#) if you have questions or wish to contribute your input on this issue.

Professional Promotions and Recruitment Committee

The Professional Promotions and Recruitment Committee is getting geared up for the upcoming year. Deanna Snyder is the new chair for this committee. Ms. Snyder is an adjunct advisor for Mid Plains Community College. This committee needs some volunteer POWER! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deanna at transcript71@yahoo.com.

Coding Roundtable

The NHIMA Board is pleased to announce the newly appointed NHIMA Coding Roundtable chair and co-chair. The new chair is Michelle Ilsley, RHIT. Ms. Ilsley is the APC Coordinator at The Nebraska Medical Center. Her co-chair is Ruth Gappa, RHIA, CCS. Ms. Gappa is the DRG Education Coordinator at Alegent Health Immanuel Medical Center. Part of the committee's duties is to provide advice for coding questions. If you have a troublesome coding question, please post it on the Nebraska CoP or direct them to Michelle: milsley@nebraskamed.com or Ruth: Ruth.Gappa@alegent.org. The Coding Roundtable is also looking for facilitators for traveling audioseminars. If you are interested in hosting an audioseminar, please contact Michelle or Ruth. Watch for upcoming Coding Roundtable events on www.nhima.org.

AHIMA's ICD-TEN

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. Click [here](#) to subscribe. Look for the next issue of ICD-TEN in September.

"Taking Healthcare by Storm"

The 1st Annual NHIMA Convention planning is underway! This convention will be held April 21-23, 2010 in Kearney, NE. Now that NHIMA is organizing one convention rather than two conferences annually, we are able to offer a wider array of topics and speakers which is something NHIMA members have been asking for! The planning committee has been putting a great deal of time and effort into this convention and are very excited about what has been accomplished so far. Mark your calendars now! You will not want to miss these three days of great HIM 'weather'! Stay tuned for more NHIMA 1st Annual Convention 'forecasts'! ~ *Angie Gage, Co-Chair*

ONC releases \$600M funding opportunity for Regional Extension Centers

During a press conference last week, Dr. David Blumenthal, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology announced the availability of approximately \$600M in grant funding to support creating about 70 Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers. The purpose of the Regional Centers is to furnish assistance, defined as education, outreach, and technical assistance, to help providers in their geographic service areas select, successfully implement, and meaningfully use certified EHR technology to improve the quality and value of health care. Regional Centers will also help providers achieve, through appropriate available infrastructures, exchange of health information in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and patient preferences.

These grants will be awarded in three application cycles waves in fiscal 2010 beginning with the first phase preliminary applications due September 8, 2009. To learn more about the Regional Centers and to obtain a copy of the funding opportunity, click [here](#).

AHLA White Paper on Red Flags 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 new Red Flags Rule on November 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." Get prepared to meet the November 1 implementation date by using this valuable resource. <http://www.healthlawyers.org/Events/Programs/Materials/Documents/AM09/king.pdf>

HHS Breach Notification Rule Effective September 23

The much-anticipated interim final rule on breach notification for unsecured protected health information was published in the August 24 *Federal Register* (Vol. 74, No. 162, page 42740) by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The rule becomes effective September 23 and covers all HIPAA-covered entities and HIPAA-related business associates. A separate rule is expected any day from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) which will affect non-HIPAA related entities. Both rules stem from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law on February 17.

The new breach notification interim rule provides updated guidance specifying the technologies and methodologies that render protected health information (PHI) unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals. The new rule will be added as subpart D to part 164 of title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and as such some of the definitions associated in part 164 will be moved accordingly.

Specifically, the breach notification rule identifies what is a breach of PHI information; how an entity might investigate an incident to determine the breach, and what steps the entity must follow should it be determined that a breach has occurred. A verified breach requires notification, as defined in the rule, of the affected individual(s) within a 60-day time period from when the breach is discovered (defined in the rule) as well as notification to HHS and potentially the media. In providing discussion of the rule, HHS also notes and comments on situations where the federal rule may reside side by side with a state breach notification rule.

Since this is an interim final rule, HHS will be taking comments via the Office of Civil Rights. There are two deadlines:

- Comments on the provisions of the rule are due on or before October 23
- Comments on the information collection requirements associated with the rule are due on or before September 8

Instructions on how to comment as well as the full text of the interim rule can be found in the [August 24 Federal Register](#).

AHIMA has developed a number of [resources](#) to assist members with the breach notification requirements. Look for an analysis of the interim final rule in the next week, as well as AHIMA's comments in the near future.

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Dates to Remember: April 21-22-23, 2010 – NHIMA Annual Convention in Kearney