

News and Views

January, 2019



NHIMA Board:	Tina Mazuch, RHIA, CCS; President; Mindi Benis, RHIA, CCS; President Elect; Courtney Burbach, RHIA, Past President, Gretchen Jopp, RHIA, CCS, CPC, Secretary; Jean Scharfenkamp, RHIA, Treasurer; Jessica Fiorelli, RHIA, CCS-P, 2nd Year Director; Liz Bechtle; RHIA, CPHIMS, 1st Year Director.
Dates to Remember:	April 10, 11 & 12, 2019 – NHIMA Annual Convention, Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

President's Message

Happy New Year! As usual, it always seems hard to believe that a new year is upon us! Hope everyone has found time to spend with family and friends over the recent holidays.

A new calendar year begins for 2019, but the NHIMA year continues on through June! Change continues to be a resounding theme for the field of Health Information Management. There have been communications from AHIMA about the new Strategic plan and the AHIMA Transformation. Please see the attached information for specific details about the [Transformation](#). It is a lengthy



document from AHIMA and it includes important information about future plans. Please read this document to stay aware of upcoming changes and the vision of AHIMA.

Board Updates: The NHIMA Board met in December to review the NHIMA Policy and Procedures. This task was completed as a team and all Board members provided feedback about the policies that guide the direction of NHIMA. Minor changes were noted and the updates will be provided in the near future to members.

During the Board's Fall face to face meeting, discussion occurs about the NHIMA Strategic Plan and updates are made as necessary. This year with the 2018-2019 NHIMA Board does not have any plans to change its mission or values, except as outlined in AHIMA's next steps. The following HIM industry focus areas will continue to be supported, strengthened and reinvented:

- Coding • Clinical Documentation Improvement • Privacy, Security, Cybersecurity • Continuing Education • Higher Education • Certification, Credentialing • Membership Support • Newsletters/Periodicals • Annual Meeting

At this time, the following items will no longer be supported, in their current form:

- Information Governance • Data Analytics • Informatics • Consumer Engagement • Standards

The NHIMA Board of Directors is pleased to partner with our Nebraska members to offer continuing education, advocacy, networking, scholarships, and engagement opportunities.

House of Delegates - Notes from the Breakout sessions

The House of Delegates governs the HIM profession by advancing best practices through advocacy, environmental scan, and thought leadership.

Four breakout sessions were held at the House of Delegate meeting in Miami Beach, Florida in September. Provided below are detailed notes about each session and the discussion.

Environmental Scanning

Member Education, Budgeting/Revenue, and Strategy/Focus

Challenges:

- Lack of knowledge of the report and Implementing into your CSA, organization, department

Recommendations:

- Expand survey and research areas and update of resources

Future of the House: Apportionment

- The House was polled and 48 out of 52 CSAs decided that there would be no further discussion or change to the current apportionment model.

Future of the House: Relevancy

- Further development needs to await the strategy reset as it will drive the relevancy of the House.

HIM Reimagined

- Further consideration needs to be given to the RHIT and RHIA credentials in terms of specialization and requirements for various roles
- Re-evaluation of AHIMA certification portfolio to determine value



NHIMA Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for the NHIMA Annual Conference! Join us in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center on April 10, 11 and 12 for three days of education, information and ideas. The conference will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10 and we will hold an evening banquet for attendees as an opportunity to network with your colleagues and listen to Stephani Vanous on Emotional Intelligence and Leadership. Get the latest from AHIMA as Dwan Thomas Flowers from AHIMA provides us with an update on AHIMA Transformation and HIM Reimagined. Richelle Marting, JD will present on the newly revised NHIMA Privacy Manual. The Friday agenda has been expanded to provide you with more coder education. Lots of information and opportunity for you to grow professionally! Registration will open in February. Watch for an email with registration information.

The Planning Committee is extending an invitation to any member or organization that would like to contribute to the success of this convention by donating an item to our raffle. We will recognize those individuals and/or organizations donating an item at the conference. Please contact Vicki Mestl at vickim@stewireless.com with information on your donation! Thank you!

Omaha Health Information Management Association

The Omaha Health Information Management Association (OHIMA) is defined as a separate, unincorporated non-profit group that is affiliated with NHIMA and identified by a distinct geographic region, that of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

The purpose of OHIMA is to promote the art and science of Health Information Administration and Technology and to provide continuing education for its members.

It has been difficult to identify members who will serve in a leadership capacity during the last 12-18 months. There have been repeated requests for members to volunteer and serve in OHIMA leadership roles. However, attempts to fill these roles have been unsuccessful.

The NHIMA Board is seeking input from those individuals located in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa with their concerns should this group be dissolved.

It is the intent of both OHIMA and NHIMA to dissolve this group and forward any OHIMA monies to the NHIMA.

Comments on this proposal will be accepted by the Board until February 15, 2019 at which time a final decision will be made by OHIMA and the NHIMA Board.

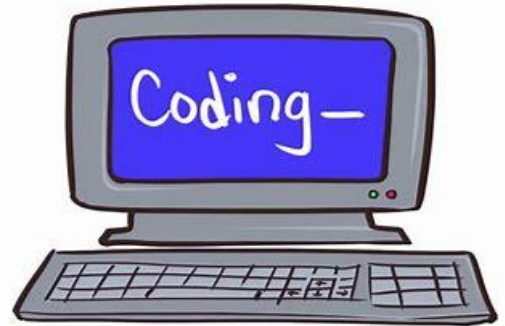
Comments and any questions you may have on this proposal can be submitted via NHIMA.org. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and submit your comment. If you wish to talk to a NHIMA board member or current OHIMA officer in person, please include a phone number where you can be reached.

CCS Prep Class

The Coding Roundtable Committee has made arrangements with AHIMA to provide our membership with an online CCS Preparation Class at a reduced cost. If we have 10 or more people who would like to take the CCS prep class and will purchase the exam and prep book, AHIMA will provide the webinars and a one hour chat with an AHIMA subject matter expert FREE!!! This is a savings of \$199! This opportunity is open to both NHIMA members and nonmembers.

The following are the costs if 10 or more people register.

CCS Exam Costs:	Premier Member	\$284.05
	Member Price	\$299
	Non-Member Price	\$399
Exam Prep Book:	Premier Member	\$63.95
	Member Price	\$67.95
	Non-Member Price	\$84.95



Total Cost for each registrant with 10 Registrants:

Premier Member Total Cost	\$348
Member Price	\$366.95
Non-Member Price	\$483.95

All interested parties must contact LeAnn Reichenberg in order to take advantage of the reduced cost.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating in this opportunity, contact LeAnn Reichenberg, Coding Roundtable Committee Chairman, at

leannreichenberg@yahoo.com or (641) 373-0470, **before February 1, 2019.**

Contact Information

Update your name, address, email address, job title, work site and phone numbers on the AHIMA Engage site. Your personal and professional information can be updated at <https://my.ahima.org/account>

Educational Opportunity

On-Demand: National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) What Is It and How Do I Use It?

The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits include claims processing edits of various types. This [course](#) will help providers understand how the edits affect claim processing and how claims need to be prepared and submitted to Medicare based on medical record documentation in order to assure proper payment.



The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits include procedure to procedure edits, medically unlikely edits, and add-on codes. CMS has a multi-chapter manual to explain the edits for different sections of procedure codes. This recording includes a discussion of the above, allowing providers to understand the rules and know when there are exceptions. This presentation also discusses the modifiers that can apply and when to use them.

Audience: Billers, coders, office managers and claims follow-up staff. This course is available through the WPS Learning Center. There is no charge for this webinar.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newly credentialed NHIMA members!

Sara Ingram, RHIT
Dixie Lepper, CCS
Suzanne Perry, RHIT
Kaoru Worl, RHIA

Ashley Johnstone, CCS
Chelsea Moffett, CCS
Ashley Smith, RHIT



Ready to Volunteer? Apply for an Elected Volunteer Opportunity with AHIMA

If you are interested in being considered for a 2020 elected volunteer position, [view the infographic](#) to learn how to become an AHIMA volunteer. You can also see the [volunteer leadership path map](#), which shows the positions available at the local, state, or national level. Then review the descriptions of available volunteer positions on the [Engage Volunteer Center](#). Elected positions include the AHIMA Board President/Chair-elect, AHIMA Board Director, House of Delegates Speaker-elect, CCHIIM Commissioner, and CEE Council Member. Find more information about these positions [on the AHIMA website](#), under the Elected Positions tab.

Before you apply, assess your leadership skills and abilities with the newly revised [AHIMA Volunteer Leadership Competencies Self-Assessment tool](#). Applications for elected positions will open on December 21 and are due March 31. All members applying for the AHIMA Board of Directors will be required to submit a board matrix worksheet prior to their scheduled telephone interview.

If you are interested in being on the AHIMA Nominating Committee, please contact Mary Meysenburg, COC for NHIMA. The states of Montana through Wyoming (alphabetically) are eligible in 2019 to submit a member to be on the Nominating Committee ballot. Members considered for candidacy need to have leadership and governance experience.

Author opportunity – Apply today!

AHIMA is also accepting applications for those interested in publishing on coding and other topics in AHIMA publications and the Journal of AHIMA. Visit the [Engage Volunteer Center](#) to learn more. You can even earn CEU's for authoring articles for *CodeWrite* or the *Journal of AHIMA*!

*Be a Valuable Resource...Be a Mentor
or
Further your career in HIM...Be a Mentee*

Are you interested in helping others and sharing your knowledge with the next generation of HIM leaders? Are you new to the HIM field and looking for guidance? Join AHIMA's mentor program. The mentor program is available only to AHIMA members, but not just at the national level, you can participate at the Nebraska state level if you prefer.

As a mentee, you have the ability to participate at both the national and state level. You can search through the AHIMA database of experienced mentors who are available to answer your questions, provide insight, and offer guidance on advancing your career in HIM.

As a mentor, your mentees will be primarily student and new members. Many are looking for guidance about everything from landing their first jobs to next steps for advancing their careers. As a mentor, you will be there to offer industry and career advice, and sometimes just to listen.

Below are some guidelines and suggested activities:

- Schedule regular meetings either via email, phone, or in person (if local) at least four times per year – perhaps more regularly in the beginning of the relationship. Please be sure to respond to ALL communication within two days.
- Discuss benefits of certification with mentee (why get certified, how to get started, etc.)
- Review a new professionals' progress and help them set realistic goals for their profession.
- For more information about the national mentor program visit <http://www.ahima.org/membership/members> OR

<https://engage.ahima.org/ahima/mentoring/mentormatchfaqs?ct=b056527da407dc23238462bb7abf6b6160c2a070400415911ba8da06b3fa26acb9fdbae5f481a9c9e246f591e6af6953c42ecd40f63f8087f6610eac28d8e9d2>

If you are interested in mentoring or being a mentee at the state level;

Mentors Contact Jan Hess at jchess@mccneb.edu

Mentees Contact Brenda Machmueller at bmachmueller@boonecohealth.org

Jan and Brenda will work together to pair up the mentor and mentee for the best fit for a profitable partnership.

Enroll now and begin your search today!

AHIMA TRANSFORMATION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the AHIMA Transformation?

- The AHIMA Transformation is the result of many months of investigation, analysis, and discussion by the AHIMA Board, executives, and others to understand and diagnose our current state challenges, industry alignment, and future opportunities. Its aim is to transform the association from its current state to a more vibrant association

better serving its members and customers, and to enhance its reputation as a trusted leader in healthcare sought out by employees, professionals, and organizations.

- The AHIMA Transformation is a multi-year strategic initiative addressing internal and external changes (e.g., artificial intelligence, computer-assisted coding, and electronic health records) affecting our members and the industry. The transformation aims to make AHIMA more effective in supporting our members and customers, more relevant in the industry, and more influential across the healthcare ecosystem.

2. Why is the AHIMA Transformation necessary?

- The healthcare ecosystem is changing rapidly due to trends in technology, proliferation of data, consumer access, and more. Many healthcare-related organizations are assessing the impact of these trends upon operations. Recognizing the challenges and potential opportunities before us, the AHIMA Board of Directors has started the Association on a path of change intended to increase our long-term viability and relevance. This multi-year strategy reset requires transformation so that AHIMA, our members, and other stakeholders can solve the problems we are uniquely positioned to address.
- We are soliciting input from our members and stakeholders about AHIMA's products and services. We plan to provide more timely products and services to the HIM profession.
- Maintaining our current trajectory without transforming would leave us ill-equipped to address healthcare challenges, leverage future opportunities, or achieve our mission to best support the healthcare industry and its professionals.
- AHIMA believes that we must better define data analytics for the HIM profession. While we understand and value the importance of analytics to the profession, we want to develop a clearer understanding of how the HIM professional works within the data analytics field and how AHIMA should support these professionals to advance and position HIM. Our goal is to create new products that better support the future of HIM professionals in analytics.

3. How will the AHIMA Transformation be conducted?

- Our transformation journey began in July 2018 when the AHIMA Board of Directors convened to lay the groundwork to revitalize AHIMA. In September 2018, the Board approved a short- and long-term transformation vision. The short-term vision is supported by the 2019 Strategic Plan, which will guide AHIMA's work in 2019, while the Board and staff continue to develop the long-term comprehensive plan.
- Throughout 2019, additional opportunities will be available to learn about our progress and provide input into our strategy journey. Our promise to you as we journey toward a stronger association is to be clear and transparent in our communication, to work in partnership with all our members and other AHIMA constituencies, and to maintain a steadfast focus on AHIMA's renewal.

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- The AHIMA Transformation will be conducted through a carefully orchestrated series of steps. The first of these steps (the investigation, analysis, and discussion) is complete and has shaped the framework used to carry out the remaining steps. The next step involves detailed planning with a broader team to ensure thoroughness. The planning work will be followed by a series of efforts that represent our pivot to a state of renewal.
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4. As a member or credential holder, what changes will I first notice?

- To start AHIMA along the path of transformation, we will need to make changes. For example, we will begin to focus AHIMA's resources on developing products and services that reflect our core strengths and offer the highest return for the Association and our members. AHIMA will continue to support and strengthen products and services related to Coding, Clinical Documentation Improvement, AHIMA World Congress, Advocacy, Certification/Credentialing, Privacy and Security, Higher Education, Membership, Periodicals, and Convention.
- AHIMA will discontinue products related to information governance, informatics, standards, and consumer engagement.
- Products related to Data Analytics will be re-evaluated and some retired. This re-evaluation will include determining how data analytics fits into what we do, understanding the needs of the membership, educators, and industry and developing tools that foster those findings. AHIMA will release further information as we investigate and further develop.
- AHIMA members can expect to see:
 - Changes to products and services offered by AHIMA as we create more agile, functional, and user-focused tools and resources.
 - Innovations to our online resources, such as AHIMA.org, the AHIMA store, and myAHIMA.
 - An improved customer experience as you interact with AHIMA.
 - A stronger and healthier AHIMA as we better define the role of the Association and the profession in the marketplace.

5. Will there be changes to certification?

- Potential changes to some certifications (CPHI, CHTS) are under consideration by the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management and the Board of Directors.
 - Currently there has been no decision to sunset credentials.
 - If a decision is ever made to discontinue products and services (such as exam prep) related to credentials, adequate notice will be provided.
 - If you have purchased an exam or exam prep for the CHDA or CPHI and are unsure if you want to take the exam you can receive a full refund for the cost of the exam. Please contact AHIMA customer service at 1-800-335-5535 or info@ahima.org .
 - If any of the certifications are sunset, certification holders may still report CEUs and maintain the credential. AHIMA will still verify you have the credential and, as long as you maintain the credential, you will not lose it.
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6. How will active projects or activities be handled for discontinued service lines?

- AHIMA is committed to minimizing the impact on customers and partners from the necessary service line reductions. Therefore, AHIMA leadership team will work with all stakeholders (employees, clients, CSAs, vendors, and other partners) to determine an appropriate sunset plan for active projects or activities that are part of a cancelled service line. Sunsetting activities may extend into 2019. Multidisciplinary sunset teams have been established as part of this process to review and evaluate current activities and establish timelines and completion plans.
- *Journal of AHIMA* articles and other online content will remain available in the AHIMA Body of Knowledge.

7. When will the AHIMA Transformation start and how long will it last?

- The AHIMA Transformation has started and is a multi-year effort.
- In 2019 the AHIMA Board of Directors and staff will prepare for development of a 2020–23 Strategic Plan and ultimately for implementation throughout 2020 and beyond.

8. How can I give AHIMA feedback as part of this process?

- Member and stakeholder input is vital to our transformation, and we want to hear from you. Your expertise and day-to-day experiences can help to better define Data Analytics and enhance our core products and services (Coding, CDI, AHIMA World Congress, Certification, Privacy/Security, Higher Education, Convention, Advocacy, Periodicals, and Membership). Watch for announcements in AHIMA’s E-Alert for upcoming focus groups, forums, and surveys where you can participate.
- AHIMA’s strategy change in focus does not mean the HIM professionals working in informatics, data analytics, information governance, and standards are not important and valued. The professionals in these career tracks are a vital part of the HIM profession. State associations may continue to have training and content to support these product lines.

9. I am part of an Engage community for a service line being discontinued. Will the Engage communities continue?

- Affected Engage communities (Consumer Engagement & Personal Health Information, Information Governance and Informatics) will be discontinued by December 31, 2018. Data Analytics Engage community will remain in place.

10. I am part of a Practice Council for a service line being discontinued. Will the practice councils continue?

- The Information Governance, Informatics, HIE, and Data Analytics practice councils will be discontinued as of December 2018.
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11. If Information Governance, Informatics, Standards and Consumer Engagement are discontinued, why am I still seeing information in e-Alerts or in the *Journal of AHIMA* related to these lines?

- You will see information related to discontinued service lines for the next few months as we work to wind services down. For example, you will continue to see content related to discontinued lines in the *Journal of AHIMA*.
- The *Journal of AHIMA* will continue to publish content on hot topics across health information management, which may include these topics from time to time.

12. As a CSA Leader, can I forward the AHIMA Transformation Memo to the CSA Board and other leaders within the state?

- Yes, we encourage you to take these changes into consideration as your leadership team considers strategic plans for your CSA.

13. Many of the discontinued service lines are featured on the AHIMA Career Map. What happens to the Map?

- The Career Map is updated on a regularly scheduled basis, and changes may be made. Timing for the next release of the Career Map is to be determined.

14. I am scheduled to author an article on a topic to be discontinued for the *Journal of AHIMA*. Is it still needed?

We value our authors' contributions and for the most part, all scheduled articles will be printed. The *Journal of AHIMA* will continue to offer articles on HIM hot topics that may include elements of discontinued service lines.

15. I am an AHIMA IGHealthRate™ User. Will AHIMA continue to support the IGHealthRate™ system?

- AHIMA will discontinue support of IGHealthRate™ with the Information Governance products and services. The system will be available until January 5th. Please finalize and print your Information Governance Adoption Model (IGAM™) Score and Coaching Reports. These will not be available beyond the January date.
- IGIQ™ and IGAdvisors® websites are also being discontinued as part of the IG sunset.

16. What role will AHIMA play with in the standards community after the discontinuation of its involvement in ISO standards services and TC215 task groups?

- ISO / TC215 is responsible development of international semantic content standards for terminological resources, data mapping quality, metadata repository requirements, and other. AHIMA has been involved with this work since 2012. AHIMA will no longer be a part of this workgroup and is discontinuing work. AHIMA has relinquished the secretariat role with the ISO/TC215 task groups as of December 31, 2018.
 - AHIMA has also been involved in U.S. Tag. A U.S. Tag is a committee accredited by ANSI for participation in ISO technical activities. A U.S. TAG is administered by a U.S. TAG Administrator, who is appointed by ANSI to be responsible for ensuring
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compliance with TAG procedures. This TAG is related to a specific technical committee or subcommittee.

- AHIMA will also discontinue work with the U.S. Tag as of 12/31/2018.
- AHIMA will continue to monitor standards under consideration through our DC office and will communicate standards that involve regulatory impacts, e.g. HIPAA, Conditions of Participation.

17. Is it appropriate for the House of Delegates to discuss strategy?

- Setting AHIMA's strategy is the responsibility of the AHIMA Board of Directors. The House can help with this work by providing consistent thoughtful feedback.
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New Year's Resolution.....

**At the end of every day, sit down
and write down three good things
that happened that day.**

**Try to make sure they are different
things every day**

~ Elizabeth Escogne

