

News and Views

April, 2020



NHIMA Board:	Mindi Benis, RHIA, CCS, President; Jennifer Hoffman, RHIA, President-Elect; Tina Mazuch, RHIA, CCS; Past-President; Gretchen Jopp, RHIA, CCS, CPC, Secretary; Cindy Sestak, RHIA, Treasurer; Elizabeth Bechtle, RHIA, CPHIMS, 2 nd year Director; Lori Richter, RHIA, CPHIMS, CHPS, 1st year Director, and Elizabeth Morgenroth, CPC, Student Representative
Dates to Remember:	CANCELLED: April 29 & 30, and May 1, 2020 – NHIMA Annual Convention
NHIMA website:	https://www.nhima.org/
NHIMA contact information:	nhima_coordinator@outlook.com
Call to Volunteer:	https://www.nhima.org/members/volunteer/

President's Message

We are in unprecedented times... 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) something no one saw coming or how it would impact our daily lives. We have had to pivot a lot personally and professionally; the plans we had made for the 2020 year are on the back burner and many of you are acting not only as parent but full-time teacher to your kids, as well as learning and adjusting to the day-to-day changes in the health care industry and this virus impacts our profession. For the association, we made the exceedingly difficult decision to change the approach for CEU opportunities. While we are excited for this push forward to challenge us on how we provide education to you, we are equally bummed that we will not see you later this month. The planning committee and board is juggling a lot of moving parts for reorganizing how we will offer CEUs to you by identifying which of our speakers will or can agree to recording their information as well as identifying new ways to obtain new topics and/or speakers. Please bear with us over the next few months while try to come up with the best approach but keep a look out for continued email communication as well as posts in our Facebook group and AHIMA Engage site. Our annual board meeting will be held virtually as well and as of right now tentatively planned for some time in July.

During all the commotion we have faced over these few months, we have tried to maintain a morsel of normalcy with our association too. On March 10th, a few NHIMA members attended the NHA State Hill day. This was a remarkably interesting day with a

lot of great information. It also gave members of the advocacy committee ideas of how we will continue our efforts for creating our own version for a NHIMA Hill Day educational event.

Last but certainly not least is we also had our annual election and the results are in... but first, I wanted to thank all of you for throwing your hat in the ring. We had a great ballot this year! I hope you each consider volunteering for our many committees this year.

It is my privilege to announce the following board members:

- President Elect – Michelle Perkins from Bennington
- Secretary – Marilyn Blunck from Pierce
- First Year Director – Paula DeFreece from Tecumseh

We are excited to have you join the board! Our board transition will also look a bit different this year as well, but we'll do our level best to make it as smooth as possible!

Thank you for what each of you do for our profession. We will prevail this!

Stay Healthy!

Mindi Benis, RHIA, CCS

Election Results

Congratulations and welcome to the newly elected 2020-2021 NHIMA Board!

President Elect	-	Michelle Perkins, CCS
Secretary	-	Marilyn Blunck, RHIT
1 st Year Director	-	Paula DeFreece, CCS

The 2020-2021 Nominating Committee includes Sarah Lane, RHIA, Chairman, and members, Michael White, RHIA, and Mona Brown, RHIT. Congratulations!

Credential Lottery Winner

TJ Sibert, RHIA has been selected as one of the NHIMA Credential lottery winners for the 2019-2020 year. To be considered for the lottery, an active member or student must take and pass the RHIA or RHIT certification exam within six months of graduation and lack funding from other sources for the certification examination fee.

Congratulations Tabitha with graduating from your program as well as sitting and passing your RHIT exam! What a great accomplishment!

Covid-19 Resources

Reminder, as of March 2020 AHIMA now has a COVID-19 on-line resource for our members. AHIMA has developed a [COVID-19 Resources page](#) as a central location for everything you may need to know. The site will be continually updated during this pandemic. The site highlights release of information, Telehealth, coding and other COVID-19 timely related topics organized by articles, announcements and other resources.

Changes to the ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines for Covid-19 Effective April 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020 can also be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/COVID-19-guidelines-final.pdf>

Thank you so much, we are in this together!

Lori Richter, RHIA, CPHIMS, CHPS, Board Liaison, NHIMA Coding Roundtable

Welcome!

Please welcome our new members!

Peter Akaeze-Lawson
Shelly Clark
Abby Gentert
Kelly Jeffer
Autumn Lake, CCA
Cindy Nelson
Britt Reynolds, CCA
Shanda Stutheit
Bryanna Vairo

Lisa Aschwege
Sarah Fritsch
Andrea Haldeman
Bernice Kubicek
Nyimbo Masidini
Paige Reichert
Jennifer Strandness
Tammie Thomsen, CDIP

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To show support for your fellow AHIMA members, we welcome you to update your Facebook profile picture. To update you can simply, choose edit profile picture and choose 'add frame'. This will allow you to search for AHIMA and provide this new frame. The frame states, "I'm a Health Information Professional" We're #InThisTogether

2020 NHIMA Annual Conference Cancellation Notice

After much deliberation and discussion, the NHIMA Board of Directors has elected to cancel the face to face annual conference, which was previously scheduled for April 29 -May 1, 2020. In this decision, the Board considered the timing of the event and alternatives for rescheduling (summer, fall), the financial impact the coronavirus has had on each of our members and the unknown nature of the Covid-19 virus itself.

However, with this assessment comes the decision to offer the membership another option!

The annual conference will be provided in the form of recorded presentations. The Planning Committee is in the process of contacting the speakers for their permission to record their presentation and schedule a time for the recording.

Once all recordings are completed, the presentations will be packaged and offered to the membership for purchase. This will allow you to purchase the presentations and view them at your convenience, coordinating with your schedule, while obtaining CEUs and supporting NHIMA.

Members will purchase the NHIMA recorded presentations through Knowledge Connex. Additional information will be emailed to the membership when all details are finalized including the purchase price for this option.

The Board has also decided to hold the annual business meeting in July and again, we will use our on line virtual technology. Members will be invited to attend the live presentation of the business meeting via conference call. Details will be emailed to the membership and call-in information will be provided at a later date.

We are eager to utilize this option to provide our membership with education while respecting our members' concerns for safety in this very challenging time.

Please feel free to email any questions you may have to nhima_coordinator@outlook.com

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United Healthcare Update

UnitedHealthcare is delaying the [implementation](#) of a new policy that will affect professional emergency department claims submitted with the level 5 evaluation/management code 99285.

UnitedHealthcare, the insurance arm of UnitedHealth Group, said it is delaying the policy in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new policy, which aligns with CMS and American Medical Association guidelines, aimed to manage the rising cost of ED care. Rising costs are in part being driven by an increase in ED claims that are coded as a level 5, the most severe, according to UnitedHealthcare. The frequency of level 5 ED claims has grown more than 70 percent from 2009-18.

For the policy, UnitedHealthcare had planned on using the Optum Evaluation and Management Professional tool. The tool aimed to reduce administrative burden by reviewing claims to determine appropriate E/M coding levels based on patient age and conditions.

Some providers raised concerns that the tool would lead to automatic downgrades and lower reimbursement. If the policy is implemented in the future, physicians will be able to file an appeal of any decision to deny a level 5 ED claim. The appeal process includes sending medical records for manual review. In addition, some level 5 ED claims are excluded from the policy, including claims resulting from admissions, and care provided to patients with opioid dependence, a drug overdose, schizophrenia and sexual abuse.

UnitedHealthcare said a vast majority of physicians are coding accurately and the policy affects a limited subset of physicians who haven't changed coding practices despite one-on-one consultations.

UnitedHealthcare said it is evaluating the timing of future implementation of the policy.

Call to Volunteer

NHIMA is calling for volunteers in 2020-2021 to further promote and grow our association and profession. Please consider the opportunity to share your skills and talents and volunteer for one of the many options to participate in our organization as either a chairman of a committee or a member of a committee of your choice. Chair and member opportunities exist with the Coding Roundtable, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Professional Promotions, and Advocacy. Participation on the Nebraska Cancer Registry Task Force is another option for a member interested in the collection of data on Nebraska individuals with cancer.

Chairmanship has its perks!

In addition to coordinating clinical coding educational opportunities for the membership, the Coding Roundtable Chairman has the opportunity to attend the Clinical Coding Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in October, 2020 – flight, hotel and registration paid by the association! The Chairman of the Annual Conference is entitled to free lodging for the annual conference in one of Younes' Conference Hotels as a "thank you" for planning and coordinating the annual conference. The Chairman of the Advocacy Committee attends AHIMA's Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC in March, 2021 to meet with our senators and congressmen and to learn about current legislative efforts impacting health care. The Chairman of the Professional Promotions Committee promotes HIM and attends job fairs to educate, promote and recruit for the Health Information Management Profession and it provides an opportunity to network with other healthcare professions. And finally, the representative on the Nebraska Cancer Registry Task Force serves as a Health Information Management expert on creation, collection and release of demographic and clinical information.

In addition to chairmen, we are seeking members for each committee. Perhaps you have a specific interest or you want to get involved in the organization. Committee work is a great way to learn about the organization, network with your peers and develop lasting friendships.

Log into <https://www.nhima.org/members/volunteer/> and volunteer your skills and talents today!

Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much. -- Helen Keller

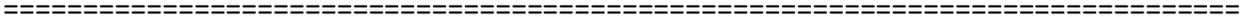
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Congratulations to the newly credentialled NHIMA members!

Rebecca Alford, CCS
Kristin Barrazo, RHIT
Joni Case, RHIT
Sarah Harms, CCA
Heather Kubes, RHIT
Krista Rystrom, CCS

Lisa Aschwege, CCA
Christy Blackburn, RHIT
Craig Divis, RHIA, CCS
Ruth Kay, CCA
Stacey Mathis, CCS



Show Off Your Accomplishments!

AHIMA's New Digital Badge Program Makes It Easy

You worked hard to succeed at your career. Let the world know! We are happy to announce an exciting way for you to show off your accomplishments and how you achieved them.

AHIMA has joined with Acclaim, a Credly Company, to issue digital badges to visually display your accomplishment(s). When the badge is clicked, it will show more information about the accomplishment and the necessary requirements you fulfilled to earn it. No longer will you have to explain what those letters behind your name mean—simply include the digital badge on your LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, over email, embedded in a website or in your email signature, on your electronic resume, or any other location where an electronic link can be placed. People can click the link to get a better understanding of your significant achievement. For step-by-step instructions on how to share your badge on varying platforms once claimed, please visit support.youracclaim.com.

As you achieve an accomplishment, an e-mail will be sent providing instructions on how to access your digital badge and achieve the greatest benefit from the use of the digital badge.



Badge recipients also have access to the Acclaim digital badge platform, which provides information about the careers associated with AHIMA credentials and job opportunities. In fact, any digital badge issued through Acclaim, even if it is outside of the AHIMA program, will also be available on this platform, providing one place for you to collect and have available all of your digital badges.



The Nebraska Health Information Management Association wants to acknowledge and thank the following 2019 Exhibitors for their support of our organization!

Avec Health

Clarkson College

Haugen Consulting Group

Healthcare Resource Group

KIWI-TEK

Metropolitan Community College

MRO

TrustHCS

Voice Products, Inc.

Wahlscribe, LLC



AvecHealth enables healthcare partners to thrive and grow by delivering large system revenue management solutions at industry beating rates. We empower our customers to prosper by maximizing their revenue opportunities and facilitating focus. Contact Kathy Harner at Kathy.harner@avechealth.com

Clarkson College is a private college located in Omaha NE. Over the last 130 years, we've established a new campus, expanded our program offerings, adopted a new name, and maintained a commitment to preparing out students to be the best in health care. Contact Ken Zieger at zeigerken@clarksoncollege.edu

Haugen Consulting Group (HCG), based in Denver, Colorado offers healthcare consulting, education and auditing services utilizing a team of industry experts. HCG is passionate about our client relationships with a belief that fun is non-negotiable. Contact Kate Kluglein at kkluglein@thehaugengroup.com for more information.

HRG's expertly crated revenue cycle management services provide customized solutions for your healthcare facility's unique needs. Our client-centric suite provides the tools need to optimize any part of your Patient Financial Services. Contact Rik Lewis at rlewis@hrgpros.com for additional information.

KIWI-TEK provides partnership coding solutions for hospitals, health systems and physician practices. KIWI-TEK is on one of the nation's largest coding companies with proven HIM experience to manage denials, ensure DRG accuracy and meet DNFB goals. Contact Jack Diamond at jdiamond@kiwi-tek.com

Metropolitan Community College is a public college on multiple campuses throughout the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area that offers a CAHIIM accredited RHIT program. It combines online instruction, online simulation activities and an in-person practicum experience to prepare students for entry-level employment in the health information management field. Contact Kelly Hajek, RHIA, Program Director, at 531-MCC-2673 for additional information.

MRO, the KLAS-rated #1 provider of release of information (ROI) solutions since 2013, empowers healthcare organization with proven, enterprise-wide solutions for secure, compliant and efficient exchange of protected health information. Contact Jim Faber at jfaber@mrocorp.com for your ROI needs.

TrustHCS partners with healthcare organization to provide staffing and advisory services that improve financial strength. Our middle-revenue cycle management solution advances the reliability, integrity, and performance of our clients' financial health. Contact info@TrustHCS.com

Voice Products, Inc sells the Best in KLAS speech recognition and coding solution software since 1990. Over 50 employees with local sales and service throughout the United States. Contact Tom Peek at sales@voiceproducts.com for more information.

Wahltek is the premier provider of innovative solutions to businesses and organizations who demand the latest in voice processing, document creation software, management services all backed by a professional full service and support organization. Contact Brent Spurgin at bspurgin@wahltek.com for your voice processing needs.

