



News and Views

The latest information from the NHIMA Board, AHIMA and other entities that impact Health Information Management Professionals.

MISSION
EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO IMPACT HEALTH

VISION
A WORLD WHERE TRUSTED INFORMATION TRANSFORMS HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE BY CONNECTING PEOPLE, SYSTEMS, AND IDEAS



2021 – The Year of Action



The past year has been an extraordinarily difficult year for our profession, our country, and our world. Unfortunately, it's not "done" with us. Stay the course. Amid all this uncertainty, two things are clear: this storm will eventually pass, and we will weather it together.

2021 is going to be NHIMA's year of action. The NHIMA Board is feeling re-energized and excited to offer our member's new opportunities to engage in the Association. We have been brainstorming an idea for the past couple months and we will be launching our first "Coffee with the Board", February 9th. We are hoping you will be able to join us! We have also partnered with OHIMA, to offer you a CEU opportunity. For more details on "Coffee with the Board" and the CEU opportunity with OHIMA, please make sure to read my other articles in the Newsletter.

Happy New Year!

Jen Hoffman, RHIA
President, NHIMA

Coffee with the Board

The board wanted a way to connect with our membership virtually. We wanted something simple and quick, where we could update and engage members. We want to be able to hear from you!

Grab a cup of coffee, tea, or your favorite beverage and join us for 30 minutes to hear about the NHIMA Board activities. I will share the Board's plans for 2021 and look for input from you. Can't make this one? No worries! This is the first in a series of planned sessions with the membership.

Who: NHIMA Board and membership

What: Coffee with the Board

When: Tuesday, February 9th, 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Where: Zoom meeting- call in information will be provided at the time of registration.



OHIMA CEU Opportunity

NHIMA has partnered with the Ohio Health Information Management Association (OHIMA) to bring our members a CEU opportunity. We will be offering the OHIMA Virtual Conference to our members at the OHIMA member price and OHIMA will share part of NHIMA members' registration fees with us. NHIMA Board decided this was an easy way to earn revenue while being able to offer CEU's. There will be an email blast to NHIMA members with specific details about registering for the OHIMA Conference. There will be a promo code that will have to be used when registering, which **is not to be shared with anyone.** The Board encourages NHIMA members to take advantage of this CEU opportunity as OHIMA has put together a great Virtual Conference! Jennifer Hoffman, President, NHIMA also noted "I would like to mention that NHIMA will still be providing our members with a 2021 Virtual Conference this spring as well."

AHIMA Access

In February AHIMA will introduce AHIMA Access. What's Access? Access is an up to date, modern, robust digital community platform where members can engage with AHIMA, fellow HI professionals, and other content. You can join communities based on your type of work, professional interests, and much more.

Keep an eye on this space, as well as E-Alert and social media, to learn more about Access in the coming weeks. For now, here are five key things to know:

1. Access is the premier place to build your professional network and discover content to help you excel. You can join communities based on your type of work, professional interests, and much more.
2. Access is designed to feel like the social media platforms you're accustomed to. Get excited to see curated health information content in your newsfeed!
3. Access communities will have folders where you can easily share resources and documents. Please note that AHIMA is moving away from Engage at the end of January, so consider downloading any documents you will want to keep and potentially upload to Access. There will be a one-week period after Engage is turned off before members are able to use Access.
4. You don't have to be on your computer to take advantage of Access – its mobile-friendly interface looks great on phones and tablets.
5. On Access, you can follow topics that interest you using your favorite #hashtags. For example, following #PatientID will allow you to see posts with that hashtag.

Again, look for more information about Access in February. If you have more questions about Access, [explore these FAQs.](#)



Call for Volunteers

NHIMA is always looking for volunteers! NHIMA Committees include Advocacy, Annual Conference Planning, Coding Roundtable, Nebraska Cancer Registry Advisory Task Force, and Professional Promotions & Recruitment.

Currently, the Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the NHIMA ballot. Election of officers for 2021-2022 will take place this spring. Open positions include President-Elect, Treasurer, First Year Director, and the Nominating Committee. Please consider this opportunity to become involved in our organization!

All committees meet virtually. Network with you peers; grow and develop the organization as well as yourself! Click on <https://www.nhima.org/members/volunteer/> to volunteer today!

Attention Students!



The NHIMA Executive Board is seeking to fill a vacancy for a Student Representative. We are excited to share with you that the role and responsibility for this position on the board has been modified in the past year. We have expanded the experience on the board to last two years which will provide personal and professional development for the student through enhanced interaction with Nebraska HIM students and NHIMA members. We have also changed the selection requirements for this position.

We encourage all interested students to apply for this position, so if you know an HIM student currently enrolled in any CAHIIM program in the State of Nebraska, get the word out and support the future of our profession!

Students applying will need a letter of recommendation from their program director, an HIM educator, or another HIM professional. To speak with someone about this role or with any questions, email nhima_coordinator@outlook.com



UPDATES

Medical Record Requests

Read the Journal of AHIMA to find out how regulations that were finalized this year will offer you a role in the patient-access digital health app economy and give you power to significantly -- and directly -- affect the lives of patients and providers. Read the article at [Requesting Medical Records | Journal Of AHIMA](#)

CyncHealth

The Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) has changed their name! Now known as CyncHealth, "The new CyncHealth brand speaks to our commitment to collaboration, creating unbiased products and processes, advancing what's possible — and working together to inspire and enable healthier communities," according to Jaime Bland, president and chief executive officer.

Lori Richter, RHIA, CPHIMS, CHPS, 2nd year Director is the NHIMA Board representative on the NeHII Professional Organization Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is a forum for health professionals through professional associations to articulate their interests, views and priorities as they relate to the mission of NEHII, and the Council will provide ongoing advice and assistance to the NEHII Enterprise.

More information on CyncHealth can be found at [Nebraska Health Information Initiative \(NEHII\) is now CyncHealth \(prnewswire.com\)](#)



NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth Alderman
Kari Dembowski
Diana Long
Marsha Meier
Sydney Searl
Mary Stenzel

Cassandra Bormann
Laura Keyser
Michael Lybarger
Heather Mixan
Teresa Sinner
Brandy Yentes

Jazmin Cawthon
Branden Leimbach
Austin McCollum
Robin Rasmussen
Justin Slutzky
Lillian Zleik



NHIMA Member Spotlight

Meet Nanci Trumble, RHIT, CPMA, CCS-P, Director of Revenue Cycle Management at Custom Computing Corporation. Located at 11135 Mill Valley Road in Omaha, their focus is support of private practice physicians in Nebraska and Iowa.

Nanci has consistently worked her way up the career ladder through various roles into her current position as the Director of Revenue Cycle Management. She initially attended Iowa Western Community College for Medical Assisting. Although her education was in the field of medical assisting, she never actually worked as a Medical Assistant. Her first position was at the Creighton Diabetes Center which morphed into a job in the billing department where she happened upon the world of coding and billing. She then moved on to University Medical Associates as a biller. At this time, she enrolled at the College of Saint Mary for a certificate in coding and reimbursement. In May of 1998, Nanci started as a biller with Custom Computing Corporation where she has been now for almost 23 years. During this time, her mentor at Custom Computing Corporation and Ellen Jacobs, RHIA were instrumental in encouraging and helping her pursue additional credentials and the completion of her Associate degree in HIM from Metropolitan Community College.

Nanci comments on her favorite aspect of being an HIM professional is the diversity of the profession. She states “There are so many working parts to this industry. HIM lets me have the opportunity to be involved in so many aspects of healthcare”. Although diversity is her favorite part of the HIM profession, she also says this is the most challenging aspect as well. Keeping up with all the changes, rules, and regulations on a consistent basis and making sure those changes are incorporated into all processes can be quite challenging. Her advice would be “to use all your resources and networks. Surrounding yourself with people that help keep all of it together is a must! No one person can know everything. It takes teamwork to the extreme!”

Nanci highlights her role as the Director of Revenue Cycle Management by stating her days are filled with a variety of responsibilities. Her primary job is to manage and direct the billing and coding staff. Her team is responsible for over 30 provider clinics, handling their coding and management of A/R. She also helps with Custom Computing Corporation’s “on-line” clients that use their software and service when in need of coding and reimbursement guidance. She



analyzes A/R, reviews denial trends, manages compliance, audits records for accuracy, works as a liaison with providers and payers, and helps with the maintenance and upgrades of our PM/EHR product. In addition, she notes “There are always the day to day ‘in the trenches’ issues that I deal with constantly which include getting to actually code (not just manage) and work accounts with issues”. Every day is something different.

To be a successful Director of Revenue Cycle Management, Nanci suggests “a strong coding and compliance background is a must in this type of position. The providers rely greatly on that knowledge so that they can best get reimbursed for the services while complying with all standards and regulations. A strong billing background is also important. Coding and billing go hand in hand, but they are two very different beasts! Having good analytical skills helps as there is so much data to analyze. Being able to recognize problems quickly is key to success”. Nanci also indicates healthcare professionals need to know ALL pieces from the front desk to final notice calls to a patient, which are incredibly important to the whole process. No one position is any less vital than another. All pieces must work together, and good procedures need to be in place to help facilitate this practice.

Nanci’s advice for anyone who is thinking about becoming an HIM professional or more specifically a Revenue Cycle Management professional is “TO GO FOR IT!”. If someone is looking for a diverse and challenging yet rewarding career, HIM/RCM definitely fits the bill. It can be overwhelming when starting out because there is just so much information to learn, but it is worth the effort!

NEW CREDENTIALS

Congratulations !

Joan Alberts, RHIA

Melody Cackin, RHIA, CCS

Diana Long, CCA

Candace Tingelhoff, RHIA

Halle Wiese, RHIT



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



~Building Blocks for Professional Growth~

[AHIMA's 2020 Policy Statements](#)

In this episode of the AHIMA HI Pitch podcast, Lauren Riplinger, AHIMA's vice president of advocacy, public policy, and government affairs, reviews the seven policy statements released by AHIMA in 2020, covering topics such as public health, patient identification, social determinants of health, and more. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

[Physician Fee Schedule Update](#)

On December 27, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 modified the Calendar Year (CY) 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS):

- Provided a 3.75% increase in MPFS payments for CY 2021
- Suspended the 2% payment adjustment (sequestration) through March 31, 2021
- Reinstated the 1.0 floor on the work Geographic Practice Cost Index through CY 2023
- Delayed implementation of the inherent complexity add-on code for evaluation and management services (G2211) until CY 2024

CMS has recalculated the MPFS payment rates and conversion factor to reflect these changes. The revised MPFS conversion factor for CY 2021 is 34.8931. The revised payment rates are available in the Downloads section of the CY 2021 Physician Fee Schedule [final rule \(CMS-1734-F\)](#) webpage.



Cybersecurity Webinar Package

With cybersecurity in the news, there has never been a better time to watch this package of AHIMA webinars that help HIM professionals address the most common areas of cyber risk and the key components of a cyber insurance policy. The webinars also explore the management of patient data relative to the demands of transference. Earn 6 CEUs. [Purchase now](#).

Why Physicians Must Act Now to Address Outpatient Documentation Challenges

New coding standards for outpatient evaluation and management services take effect this year, and health care providers with outdated documentation systems that impede sharing of data between inpatient and outpatient departments are at risk of being under-reimbursed, writes EZDI CEO Chetan Parikh. Read the entire article at [Why physicians must act now to address outpatient documentation challenges \(medicaleconomics.com\)](#)

Covid-19 Dashboard

DHHS has launched a COVID-19 Vaccination dashboard to keep the community updated on Nebraska's vaccination efforts. For more information on Nebraska's vaccine distribution plan go to [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

Nebraska Covid Vaccinations

Find the latest data on Nebraska Covid Vaccinations at [Covid19 Experience Builder \(arcgis.com\)](#)



And Finally.....

Questions, comments, thoughts to share? Contact the NHIMA Board at

nhima_coordinator@outlook.com

NHIMA website: nhima.org

NHIMA Board

Jennifer Hoffman, RHIA, President

Mindi Benis, RHIA, CCS, Past President

Michelle Perkins, CCS, CPC President-Elect

Marilyn Blunck, RHIT, Secretary

Cindy Sestak, RHIA, Treasurer

Lori Richter, RHIA, CPHIMS, CHPS, 2nd year Director

Paula DeFreece, CCS, 1st year Director

Elizabeth Morgenroth, CPC, Student Representative

Mary Meysenburg, RHIA, CCS, Central Office Coordinator



There is no traffic jam on the extra mile

