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From the President



Happy Fall Everyone!

It's hard to believe that it is November already with the holidays right around the corner. Your NYHIMA Board has been busy since we began in July.

In July, Jeffery Youngs (NYHIMA President-Elect), Angela from our Central Office and I attended AHIMA's Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL. There were great sessions that

focused on association leadership, membership benefits and business processes for associations. We came back well educated with many ideas for this coming year.

In July we also finished the Component Local Association (CLA) Assessments that we did last year. Through our Central Office contract with Capitol Hill Management, they offered to host and perform individual conference calls with each CLA to offer recommendations on association management at the local level based on questions and issues raised by the CLAs during the assessment that was performed. All CSA's participated and feedback was very positive.

While we do a joint outgoing and incoming Board of Directors meeting at our Annual Conference to begin Board transitions, our first true working Board meeting was in August. We worked on this year budget and plans for this coming 2017-18 year. Goals for this year which coincide with NYHIMA's Strategic Plan (you can access the entire NYHIMA Strategic Plan on our website at NYHIMA.org) include - Engage and Educate, Lead and Advocate for our members from a state, local and national level.

In September we held our Fall Local Leaders Retreat and we are very pleased to report that for the first time in several years, all CLA's came and participated! Capitol Hill Management provided sessions for us on

association budgets, meeting and conference planning, and membership communication. We had a GREAT day that also included prizes (personally donated by the NYHIMA Board) for meeting participation and everyone also brought a food item that NYHIMA donated to the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region .

In October, your delegates attended the 2017 AHIMA House of Delegates. NYHIMA Delegates included Jeffery Youngs, Chris Edwards, Diane Fabian, Julie Brucker, and myself. It was a busy day which mostly included all the HOD Delegates breaking out and attending and participating in discussions related to topics which are of concern to AHIMA and its members. These breakout sessions included:

- Business Process Outsourcing
- Consumer Engagement
- HIM Reimagined
- Professional Development and Leadership
- Future of the House of Delegates

AHIMA will be taking all of the recommendations from the Delegates and present it to the AHIMA Board who will determine next steps regarding follow up to these topics.

I would also like to remind everyone to keep a look out for all the upcoming education programs we have planned including our Annual Conference that will be held at the historic Sagamore Hotel in beautiful Lake George, NY in June of 2018.

Finally, I encourage anyone who has not joined NYHIMA as an additional paying member to consider doing so. There are many benefits to joining which are listed on our website. One reason for the additional dues is to support our Central Office (which actually costs us less with Capitol Hill Management then it did when we employed our own staff). You can also see the added expertise they bring to the work we have done with the CLAs, not to mention being able to afford an annual meeting site such as the Sagamore. They truly help us provide to our members a very professionally run organization.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns on anything. I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Kim

Submitted by: NYHIMA President, Kim Charland, BA, RHIT, CCS

NYHIMA News and Notes



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Peter Micallef. Peter passed away on Thursday, October 19, 2017 peacefully at Southside Hospital surrounded by his family.

Peter was a valued member of NYHIMA: he served in various positions on the Board, was a co-founder of the Medical Coding Section, a former Distinguished Member (2007), as well as a former Hall of Fame Award Recipient (2014).

"I believe that my legacy after I am gone will be the hundreds of coders in the NYC metropolitan area." Peter said upon accepting his Distinguished Member Award in 2007 at the NYHIMA Annual Meeting.

He then concluded his acceptance speech with "Life long learning is our primary mission."

Thank you Peter for your leadership, wisdom, and dedication to the HIM profession.

Submitted by: NYHIMA Central Office

NYHIMA Stands in Solidarity with Those Affected by the Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma

HIM professionals in areas affected by disasters face a unique challenge as they struggle to piece back together their own lives while working to recover as much of their community's patient information as possible.

That is why AHIMA, through the AHIMA Foundation, has established the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund to assist communities of health

information professionals whose personal or professional lives have been severely disrupted by a natural or man-made disaster.

The HIRO Fund will provide immediate material relief made possible through an initial \$10,000 donation from AHIMA and the generosity of AHIMA members and the greater professional community of health information management.

NYHIMA stands in solidarity with those affected by the hurricanes and to show our support have made donations to TXHIMA and FHIMA through the HIRO Fund. If members of NYHIMA have any questions on how they can help please do not hesitate to reach out to the Central Office for assistance.

Submitted by: NYHIMA Central Office

Northeast CDI and Coding Symposium

The 3rd annual CDI and Coding Symposium held on August 11, 2017 in Newton, MA was a major success. This was due to the great collaborative efforts by leaders from the MA state chapter of ACDIS, NYHIMA and MaHIMA who volunteered many hours over the past 6 months in developing the agenda, obtaining sponsorship and a suitable location.

The first 2 years attracted between 170-200 attendees and this year the event brought over 220 CDI and Coding professionals from the entire northeast region. This demonstrates that the symposium brings many educational benefits to the attendees by not only enabling them to hear from informative healthcare speakers but also the ability to collaborate with physicians, CDI or health information management leaders and professional coders.

Dr. Jon Elion kicked off the event with the session titled... "Doc to Doc: How to Give the Talk". This provided great advice to everyone on how best to communicate with physicians in order to obtain accurate and complete documentation in the medical record. Dr. Elion ended with not only addressing many questions but he provided a humorous and relevant song, while playing his guitar, and the audience loved it.

Cathy Farragher and Gina Mannion followed with an informative session on "CDI and Quality". Their many years of experience was very beneficial and practical. A panel of 4 professional and seasoned CDI nurses/leaders and an HIM leader followed Cathy and Gina. This panel provided a robust discussion and Q&A interaction with the attendees, covering the best CDI and Coding practices and lessons learned at their facility.

After a very nice sponsored lunch by 3M, Donna Smith discussed the importance of "HCCs" (Hierarchical Condition Category). This CMS payment model is gaining more attention and possessing the skill set to understand this

model and its impact on coding and payment is vital for all coders. The next and final session followed appropriately after HCCs and was titled "Outpatient CDI". We all heard of the benefits of CDI in the inpatient setting but Valerie Parent shared the importance of CDI in the outpatient setting. This is the new CDI frontier and Valerie provided CDI professionals and all attendees information on how best to set up an outpatient CDI program.

Hopefully this symposium will continue next year and provide educational benefits to even a greater number of CDI and Coding professionals from the northeast and beyond.

Submitted by: Walter Houlihan, MaHIMA

Meet the NYHIMA 2017-2018 Legislative Committee Members

Donna Silsbee, Ph.D., RHIA, CCS, CTR is an Associate Professor of Health Information Management at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica where she teaches undergraduate HIM courses and a graduate course in Health Informatics for the MBA program in Technology Management. She is a past President of NYHIMA, CNYHIMA, and AdHIMA and a Distinguished Member of both NYHIMA and CNYHIMA.

Katherine Kozlowski, RHIA has more than 25 years of experience. She possesses multiple skills covering many areas in the HIM field including - Quality improvement, Change management and Revenue enhancement. She has been a managing director of clinical documentation improvement and Coding Quality. She has led multiple projects in training and monitoring DNFB, patient safety indicators and documentation improvement. She has a long list of organizational achievements and certifications: Revenue Management/Compliance Certification. Certified Coding Specialist; CCS, Clinical Documentation Improvement Professional; CDIP, ICD-10 CM-PCS Certified Trainer. Katherine is the current President-elect of SENYHIMA, President/Owner Backup Services, Member of the AHIMA CDI Task Force and an AHIMA CDIP expert member for the CDIP examination. In her current position she is the project director for coding quality, RAC /Denial reviews, Quality CDI/Coding Representative and patient safety indicators.

Caroline Baker, RHIA, CHPS: has worked in the HIM field for about 25 years, starting out as a transcriptionist and progressing into leadership positions. She earned my bachelor's degree from University of Cincinnati online in 2011. She has made her way around the healthcare circuit in northern NY, working at several facilities as well as spending a year in Durham, North Carolina. In her current role at Carthage Area Hospital (for the second time), she is also the Privacy Officer. This role inspired her to obtain her CHPS certification this year. Leading people is one aspect of her job that I she particularly enjoys. She also loves the challenge of completing the life cycle of the paper chart by purging old

records, setting retention rates, and developing the process for ongoing destruction of records for the entire organization.

We look forward to serving our fellow NYHIMA members this coming year. If you have any ideas for Legislative topics you would like to read about in Perspectives please contact NYHIMA via e-mail at: nyhima@caphill.com.

Submitted by: NYHIMA Legislative Director, Peggy Presbyla, RHIA, CHP

NYHIMA 2017-2018 Education Committee Members

Thank you to everyone who completed the NYHIMA Education Survey and expressed interest to join the committee. We are currently working through this list and will contact everyone shortly. If you do not hear back from us please know that we will keep you in mind for any future needs.

Upcoming NYHIMA Programs & Events

Don't miss out on NYHIMA's upcoming educational offerings. [Click Here](#) to find out more about our upcoming events and to register

- **Monday, November 6, 2017:** IG Training Course (Central NY)
- **Friday, December 1, 2017:** Outpatient CDI Program
- **Wednesday, December 6, 2017:** Code & Data Driven Quality Programs that Affect Inpatient Medicare Reimbursement Webinar
- **Friday, December 8, 2017:** IG Training Course (Downstate NY)
- **Thursday, December 14, 2017:** APC/OPPS Update for 2018 Webinar

Submitted by: NYHIMA Central Office

[Local Association News](#)

CNYHIMA

The Central New York Health Information Management Association has been busy. We had a continuing ed meeting on Oct 13th with the Northern local association in Watertown. Topics included: ROI, HIPAA, and Coding Updates/Review. And we had another meeting entitled RHIT/RHIA Exam Prep/Review with NYHIMA on Sept 22nd in Liverpool. Thank you to our speakers: Eric, Melissa, Chris, Ellen, and Janet!

We are partnered with the Adirondack local association for a meeting Fri 10/27 on CDI at SUNY Poly. Glenn Krauss is our speaker.

We are working on a LTC meeting in November with a speaker on Leadership. And hot-off-the-press we have booked Michelle Green to speak on ICD-10 Updates on Thurs Dec 14 from 5-9 pm at the Liverpool Public Library.

And get out your 2018 calendar and save the date of Fri 5/11/18 for our CNYHIMA Annual Meeting. It will be the same place as last year, the Holiday Inn in Liverpool.

Friday, October 27 Event (pictured below):



Submitted by: CNYHIMA

RRHIMA

Member Spotlight: Dawn Chanin, RHIA



Dawn received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Record Administration (now Health Information Management) from Daemen College in Buffalo, NY. At Cleveland Hill High School, she was training as an Administrative Assistant, but always had an interest in the medical field. "My guidance counselor went to an open house at Daemen and told me of the Health Information Management curriculum there. I loved that I could merge my business training with a medical field."

After graduating in 1982, Dawn started working as a Medical Record Technician at South Buffalo Mercy Hospital. In 1984, she became Director of Medical Records at Deaconess Skilled Nursing Facility in Buffalo where she was part of the team that transitioned Deaconess Hospital into Deaconess SNF. In 1985, Dawn came to Rochester to work at Rochester General Hospital as an Inpatient Coder. "I was to start at Rochester General Hospital on January 2nd. Because I didn't want my new supervisor to have a bad impression of me, I drove from Buffalo to Rochester in a blinding snow storm where all I could see was the rear lights of the 18-wheel truck in front of me. I was never so glad to get to my apartment. In looking back, what was I thinking?"

To advance her career, Dawn held various positions as an Assistant Supervisor in the Health Information Management Department at the University of Rochester Medical Center, an Evening Supervisor in the Health Information Management Department at Kenmore Mercy Hospital and Associate Director of the Health Information Management Department at F.F. Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua. "For me, I felt that I could not be a good manager or leader without knowing the jobs of my staff - what they encounter, good or bad. My various positions over the years gave me that insight."

In her spare time, Dawn was a Radio Dispatcher for the Volunteer Ambulance Corp in Irondequoit, NY. Dawn mentioned, "This was at a time before we had 911 in Monroe County."

In 2002, Dawn had to take a medical retirement from F.F. Thompson Hospital, but remained active in the Rochester Regional Health Information Management Association (RRHIMA) as the Membership & Database Project Coordinator, and later as the Webmaster when she and her husband, Doug, built the RRHIMA website in 2013. In RRHIMA, Dawn has held many positions, including

President, Director of Finance, Director of Communications, Chairman of Archives Committee, and Delegate to the NYHIMA Annual Meeting. In NYHIMA, she was Chairman of the Public Relations Committee for the 1992 NYHIMA Annual Meeting and a Member of the Awards Committee from 2001-2003.

Dawn finds Health Information Management interesting at every level, whether it be working with the clerks in the file room; as a coder assigning ICD-9-CM and CPT codes; or working with other departments to implement new computer systems, programs, or policies and procedures. "I love the constant learning. You are always challenged because health care is ever changing. And now-a-days, there are so many avenues that you can take with AHIMA credentials." She added, "This profession has been rewarding because of the opportunities to grow, my co-workers, and networking on the local and state level." And, she added, "the friends I have made along the way!"

When asked if she had some advice for a student or someone considering HIM as a career, Dawn said "It is a challenging and rewarding profession. Every career has its ups and downs, but in HIM, there are more ups than downs. Don't get discouraged and find positive in everything you do. Volunteer in your local HIM association, for the networking is invaluable, and always be true to yourself."

Dawn will be retiring from her RRHIMA positions in September, but will continue to attend meetings. She plans on doing charity sewing, possibly for veterans, seniors or children.

Submitted by: RRHIMA

In the Spotlight: Annual Conference Planning Committee: Members of AdHIMA and HIMANNY

Program Committee

Chair: Meg Devoe, CCS | TruCode | AdHIMA President | AHIMA Contractor and Committee Member

Mari Pirie-St. Pierre, RHIA, CPHI | New York State Office of Mental Health

Julie Brucker, RHIA, CCS | HIM Consultant, Jzanus Consulting

Susan Huntington, MBA, RHIA | Adirondack Health Saranac Lake

Kim Charland, BA, RHIT, CCS | Pena4, Inc | NYHIMA President

Arrangements Committee

Chair: Carol Maimone, RHIT, CCS | Ellis Hospital | AdHIMA President-Elect

Holly Hiscock, BA, CCS | UVM Health Network at Alice Hyde Medical Center

Leslie Mills, RHIA | St Lawrence Psychiatric Center

Tennille Schmitt, RHIT | USA MEDDAC Fort Drum, NY

Sandy Macica, MS, RHIA | Libman Education



Members of the Conference Planning Committee at a Site Tour of the Sagamore

Pictured left to right: Mari Pirie-St. Pierre, Meg Devoe, Carol Maimone, and Kim Charland



***The Annual NYHIMA Conference will take place June 3 - 6, 2018
at the Sagamore Resort in Lake George, NY.***

***Registration Information and Sponsorship Opportunities will be
available soon!***

Submitted by: NYHIMA Central Office

AHIMA News Notes

During AHIMA's Convention, it was announced that AHIMA's Information Governance Adoption Model software called *IGHealthRate* **is now available free to qualified organizations**. The *IGHealthRate* maturity assessment provides a structured approach for organizations to utilize as they develop their information governance strategic plans and map current state. *IGHealthRate* assesses the using AHIMA's Information Governance Adoption Model's ten organizational competency areas.

Organizations that have engaged with the IG Adoption Model to advance trusted, accurate, reliable information have seen benefits that include:

- Cost avoidance,
- Increased patient safety
- Risk avoidance, and
- Core efficient / streamlined business processes.

If your organization is interested in utilizing this free *IGHealthRate* information governance maturity assessment tool please complete the [qualification form](#). The qualification process requires the organization to identify a leader for the IG assessment project and identify an executive sponsor (C-suite preferred) who will champion the assessment and engagement with information governance in the organization. The initial *IGHealthRate* assessment needs to be completed within 60 days of qualification.

Thank you and we hope you will take advantage of *IGHealthRate* - the ONLY Information Governance Maturity Model specifically designed for all types of organizations across the healthcare ecosystem including providers, payers, business associates and any information intensive organizations.

Organizations using the assessment work toward an IG Adoption Model (IGAM) Level 4 or 5 award. [Here a recent news story regarding a healthcare organization and their achievement of AHIMA IGAM Level 4](#)

Here are some additional *IGHealthRate* resource links:

[IG for Executives Video](#) (an overview for your boss!)

[Assessment Methodology](#)

[IGAM Level 4 and Level 5 Validation](#)

[Other Free IG Resources](#)

Submitted by: AHIMA

Industry News

CDI in Denials Management

There is a saying that my husband tells me all the time: "If you want to accomplish something as quickly as possible, take your time and do it right the first time." This is something I have thought of many times when working in clinical documentation improvement (CDI), especially when dealing with denied claims. The importance of high quality documentation has come to the attention of denials management teams. For this reason, organizations are beginning to incorporate CDI professionals into the denials process. CDI professionals can serve as subject matter experts (SMEs) when the denials occur due to a lack of documentation or clinical evidence.

[Click Here for the Full Article](#)

By Tammy Combs, RN, MSN, CDIP, CCS, CCDS