

## In This Issue...

1. [From the President](#)
2. [NYHIMA News/Notes](#)
3. [AHIMA NewsNotes](#)
4. [Industry News](#)

[NYHIMA Job Bank](#)

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## From the President



Season's Greetings!

As we reflect on 2018, NYHIMA has had a great year overall. The NYHIMA Board of Directors has focused on strengthening our association and striving to meet the needs of our members. Our focus moving into 2019 will be providing better resources for membership. We are adopting a new app for conference, upgrading and updating our website, continuing to offer great educational opportunities and partnering with the CLA's to offer education in all areas of the state. We are committed to exploring options of offering additional tools and resources to our members. AHIMA is also reevaluating their focus on our profession, and NYHIMA will continue to monitor this progress and will make sure we share this information with our members. Over the years, we have had several positive changes to our association, some which were difficult decisions, but NYHIMA is growing in membership, providing needed services, and we know our association has a strong future.

We always welcome ideas and suggestions from our members, so please know that you can always contact us at [nyhima@caphill.com](mailto:nyhima@caphill.com). We will be happy to assist you as much as possible. I also challenge you to consider getting more involved with NYHIMA - we have many opportunities to get involved. These opportunities can be short or long term commitments and available to meet everyone's needs. Some opportunities to get more involved could be: writing an article for a newsletter, joining one (or more) of our committees, and serving on the NYHIMA Board. All of these are a great way to share your knowledge with other professionals, and it's your contribution to helping NYHIMA have a strong future moving forward! On a personal note, I didn't know many HIM professionals outside of Central New York when I joined NYHIMA, but I can say I have been able to meet and network with so many wonderful professional across the state - I now can say I have friends across the state. I know I can personally reach out to my colleagues/friends if I have questions or need assistance, and they can do the same with me. Any commitment you are able to give to your association and profession would be valuable to not only us, but to you as well!

On behalf of the NYHIMA Board of Directors we wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,  
Jeffery

Submitted by: NYHIMA President, Jeffery R. Youngs, RHIT

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## NYHIMA News and Notes

### NYHIMA 2019-20 Elections - Vote Today!

All *Active Members*, except students are eligible to vote. The polls are now open and will officially close at 5:00 p.m. EST on Saturday, December 29, 2018.

For voting purposes: please select one candidate for each category except the Awards Committee, for that committee you are able to select a maximum of five candidates. You will only be able to access the election form once and will not be able to change your vote after you submit.

***Exercise your membership privileges. Cast your vote today!***

**[CLICK HERE](#) to log on & vote today!**

All ballots will be verified and tallied. Election results will be announced at the beginning of 2019.

If you have questions about the ballot, please contact the NYHIMA Central Office at 518-435-0422 or [nyhima@caphill.com](mailto:nyhima@caphill.com).

### New Year, New Job?

Did you know NYHIMA has a Job Bank, a benefit for NYHIMA and AHIMA members. The Job Bank helps job seekers find jobs and employers find staff in the health information management field.

Candidates can browse current vacancies on the [NYHIMA website](#).

Submitted by: NYHIMA Central Office

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## Upcoming NYHIMA Programs & Events

Don't miss out on NYHIMA's upcoming educational offerings.

- **Wednesday, January 30, 2019: The Road Map to Successful Denials Management, Prevention & Recovery**

**Webinar Presented By:** Denny Roberge is currently the Vice President of Advisory Services for nThrive.

**[CLICK HERE](#) to Register Today!**

***Stay tuned for more information on NYHIMA's winter & spring educational offerings!***

- ***SAVE THE DATE for NYHIMA's 2019 Annual Conference. [Registration Details coming soon!](#)***
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Submitted by: NYHIMA Central Office

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## Local Association News

### ***RRHIMA Member Spotlight: Edward Patrick, RHIT***

Edward Patrick Jr., RHIT has accomplished a lot in his 5-year career and has taken on some challenging roles. Fresh out of College, and having worked just 2 months as a per diem coder prior to graduation, he was hired full-time at Unity hospital, where he quickly transitioned to the role of Documentation & Reimbursement Coordinator. In this role he trained and educated outpatient providers on ICD-10 coding. He developed a curriculum and prepared information packets for each practice, as well as, an ICD-9 to ICD-10 cross-walk tailored to each of the specialties. Ed spent a lot of time in his car over the six months leading up to the ICD-10 go-live date, meeting with providers and logging more than 700 miles in the process. Following the information meetings, Ed continued to respond to provider inquiries via Email and phone calls as well as making second and third trips to offices. Giving a presentation to a large group of hospitalists was his biggest challenge while in this role. Despite his fears that he was not up to the task without the help of his supervisor, Karen Linder, he gave the presentation. Though he was not previously comfortable speaking in front of a group he found himself doing just that. Although the providers were not to always warm to him and the new coding system, he tried to diffuse their negativity with the reminder that he was merely there to guide them through the inevitability of what was just around the corner. Having Karen there for support throughout this time was what he needed especially with tough questions. "Through embracing uncomfortable situations and enduring the struggle, you remind yourself that you can achieve things you may not have thought were possible. They believed in me to do that job, regardless of my level of experience, and I had to constantly remind myself of that when things got tough."

[Click here to read more.](#)

Submitted by: RRHIMA

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## AHIMA News:

### HHS Seeking Industry Feedback on HIPAA Modifications

The US Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) this week issued a Request for Information (RFI) on "Modifying HIPAA Rules to Improve Coordinated Care," which will collect public input on how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Rules-the HIPAA Privacy Rule in particular-could be modified to better promote coordinated, value-based care.

"This RFI is another crucial step in our Regulatory Sprint to Coordinated Care, which is taking a close look at how regulations like HIPAA can be fine-tuned to incentivize care coordination and improve patient care, while ensuring that we fulfill HIPAA's promise to protect privacy and security," said HHS Deputy Secretary Eric D. Hargan in a press release.

As healthcare has evolved with innovation in technology and the move toward a value-based care model, the industry has increasingly called for updates to HIPAA that would better reflect the new operating environment.

"We are looking for candid feedback about how the existing HIPAA regulations are working in the real world and how we can improve them," said OCR Director Roger Severino in the release. "We are committed to pursuing the changes needed to improve quality of care and eliminate undue burdens on covered entities while maintaining robust privacy and security protections for individuals' health information."

Specific areas of the HIPAA Privacy Rule on which the RFI seeks comment include:

- Encouraging information-sharing for treatment and care coordination
- Facilitating parental involvement in care
- Addressing the opioid crisis and serious mental illness
- Accounting for disclosures of protected health information for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations as required by the HITECH Act
- Changing the current requirement for certain providers to make a good faith effort to obtain an acknowledgment of receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices

During a Congressional briefing last week in Washington, DC, AHIMA, the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), and other health IT stakeholders advocated for the modernization of HIPAA regulations. Much has changed in healthcare since HIPAA was first enacted. The RFI is a welcome sign that the need to revise and modernize HIPAA is on OCR's radar, according to Lauren Riplinger, JD, senior director of federal relations at AHIMA.

AHIMA continues to work with AMIA to assess the ways in which HIPAA must be modernized to meet the needs of today's modern healthcare industry.

Public comments on the HIPAA modernization RFI are due February 11, 2019. AHIMA staff will be working with the Advocacy and Policy Council, along with other AHIMA practice councils, to draft comments for the RFI.

Source: [AHIMA Website](http://www.AHIMA.org) Posted By Sarah Sheber on Dec 14, 2018([www.AHIMA.org](http://www.AHIMA.org))

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## Industry News

### ***Cybersecurity guidance targets medical records strategies***

New guidance from the American Health Information Management Association offers 17 steps toward building a comprehensive cybersecurity plan that addresses not only the information technology department but a range of other stakeholders.

The effort aims to increase organization-wide awareness of security weaknesses and to reassess information management strategies that put data at risk.

"Governance of information shifts the focus from technology to people, processes and the policies that generate use, and manage the data and information required for care," says Kathy Downing, director of practice excellence at AHIMA with 15 years of experience in HIM and as a privacy officer in provider facilities.

[Click here for the full article](#)

By Joseph Goedert, Joe takes the lead role in generating news for Health Data Management's award-winning website

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