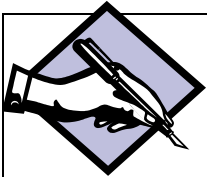




THE NORTHLINE

August 2003



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Anita Sommerfeld, RHIA

Fall: summer is over, our children are (CSA's) sign an Affiliation back in school, and we are all Agreement. The Board has been preparing for winter. However, there is something to look forward to – our Fall workshop.

Cathy Gross and Ann Waters have been busy behind the scenes and have planned a great workshop for us. We have succeeded in bringing to Glorianne Bryant, RHIT, CCS will be back to talk about surgical CPT coding, Practical with Privacy & Security". Ann will be providing us with coding updates, and Janie Miller will be discussing Alaska's Coding Roundtable. Mark October 10, 2003 on your calendar. The workshop will be held at the BP Energy Center and space is limited so sign-up early.

The Board has been busy since our new year started on July 1st. AHIMA is now requiring that all State Associations

will mean some Bylaw changes for us. We will be communicating these changes to you so keep an eye on the website and the Northline.

We have been requesting this for years and it finally paid off. We are currently negotiating dates, so look forward to attending this dynamite seminar to be held late spring or early summer 2004.

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy some of our record breaking weather this summer and I look forward to seeing you at our fall workshop.

A TOUCH OF ALASKA @ AHIMA NATIONALS

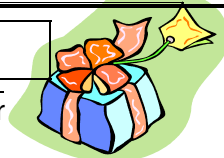
The AKHIMA piggy bank has collected \$118 for the FORE basket to be included in the Not-So-Silent Auction in Minneapolis (AHIMA Annual Education Conference in October). The AKHIMA shoppers do a great job filling our basket and representing our State with the goodies they include.

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EDITOR: Marianne Dailey

AKHIMA RECEIVES LAPTOP COMPUTER



AKHIMA is the lucky recipient of an HP laptop computer, donated by PHNS, one of our vendors participating in last Spring's Annual Conference in Anchorage.

Christina Sabbia, Regional Manager of PHNS, overheard Ann Waters wishing Santa could bring a laptop for the Association. Christina volunteered to see if PHNS could donate a "gently used" laptop for our use. The laptop arrived in Anchorage in August, complete with Microsoft Office XP.

The donation is an important one for the association. It will be loaded with accounting software and used by the treasurer. AKHIMA's Board will also be able to use the laptop for reports and PowerPoint presentations at our workshops.

Dallas, Texas-based PHNS provides IT, health information management (medical records, transcription, coding and other health information management services) (HIM) and AR outsourcing solutions to approximately 160 hospitals and multi-facility healthcare systems. Please visit their website at www.phns.com. Many thanks to PHNS and Christina for their wonderful donation to us!

AHIMA AND AHA CONDUCTS ICD-10 FIELD TESTING ALASKA MEMBERS PARTICIPATE — Ann Waters, RHIT, CCS

AHIMA has partnered with the American Hospital Association (AHA) to field-test the ICD-10-CM medical code set, marking the first known field-testing of ICD-10-CM in the United States. This collaborative project tested the utility of ICD-10-CM in various healthcare settings, as well as evaluated the training and medical record documentation requirements necessary for its implementation. Almost 10% of Alaska's AHIMA members participated in this important work.

"AHIMA has been a longtime proponent for the adoption and implementation of ICD-10-CM, which is now implemented or being implemented in all highly developed nations except the United States," said Sue Prophet-Bowman, RHIA, CCS, Director of Coding Policy and Compliance at AHIMA, and the project's lead coordinator.

"ICD-10-CM provides a more complete and accurate description of the medical diagnoses and other reasons for healthcare encounters than the current diagnostic coding system. By field-testing ICD-10-CM, we hope to demonstrate that it is relatively easy to learn and use, it has the desired level of specificity, and the instructional notes, guidelines, and index entries are complete and accurate," Prophet-Bowman said.

AHIMA and AHA selected more than 350 AHIMA members, from all types of healthcare settings, to code medical records using ICD-10-CM. The associations determined which data to collect and worked with research experts within the HIM field to review the proposed data collection for validity. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) prepared an audio training program for project participants.

Participants had approximately four weeks to code 50 records each and submit the data to AHIMA via a Web-based survey tool developed by Ohio State University. The testing phase of the project was completed by the end of July. Results of the tests will be tabulated and submitted to the NCHS and will be presented to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS). AHIMA and AHA will also use the results in preparing for ICD-10-CM implementation.

There will be a reception in October for the participants at AHIMA's national, giving them the opportunity to personally share their experiences in this important project.

CONGRATULATIONS 2003 GRADUATES!!



UAS HIM Degree

Pat Allen - Anchorage Delores Anderson - Juneau Estera Beker - Sitka Pat Goff - Wasilla Dionne Digel - Anchorage Jorie Gaines - Anchorage Jennifer McClure - Anchorage Georgina Perches - Wyoming Jean Tentis - Kodiak

UAS HIM Coding Certificate

Brenda Eusted - Ketchikan Rosanne Gray - Anchorage Patrice Huettel - Petersburg Barbara Miller - Soldotna Donna Phelan - Anchorage Julene Perrault - Sitka Elaine Price - Coffman Cove Vivian Weaver - Wasilla

Also, congratulations to: ▪ Leslie Gordon, RHIT on successfully completing St. Scholastica's HIA program; ▪ Pat Chapman, RHIT, CCS, Irene Sorensen, CCS-P and Sharon Smith, CCA on passing the coding credentialing exams.

Just a reminder that the HIM program is due for re-accreditation this Fall. Completion of the employer/graduate surveys is critical since the focus will be on outcomes. We have had a good response from the professional community, but would like to have more employer surveys completed.

FALL CODING WORKSHOP

AKHIMA has a "cornucopia of coding" in store for you at the AKHIMA Fall Coding Workshop. The Workshop is to be held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage on Friday, October 10, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is a great time to network with your fellow coders and gain new associates



SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

Ann Waters RHIT, CCS AKHIMA President-Elect will be addressing 2004 ICD-9 Coding and DRG Changes

Janie Miller, RHIT, CCS AKHIMA's New Coding Roundtable Coordinator

Gloryanne Bryant, BS, RHIT, CCS Outpatient Surgical CPT Coding

Registration forms are in the mail

also available at
www.akhima.org

- ▶ Seating for this workshop is limited to 45 so be sure to register early!
- ▶ Bring Your Coding Books
- ▶ Questions?? Contact Cathy Gross, RHIT at cathy@akhima.org
- ▶ Attendance earns 7 Continuing Education Credits for AHIMA and AAPC.



FIRST 10 WEEKS OF HIPAA: COMPLAINTS ROLL IN

Have you been wondering what to expect regarding patient complaints about perceived violations of the HIPAA privacy rule? Here's the scoop so far based on June 24 comments by an HHS Office for Civil Rights official.

The OCR received 637 complaints between April 14 and June 24, the agency's Stephanie Kaminsky reported to the NCVHS. 513 cases are open, and OCR has accepted 260 for investigation. Kaminsky stressed that OCR is working with providers to help them get compliant - not to wield its punitive authority with a heavy hand. "We are expecting and working toward a situation where a lot of the complaints that we receive might be able to be handled with technical assistance, with helping covered entities understand what exactly they need to be doing, and giving them the appropriate information so that they can voluntarily comply," she said.

According to Kaminsky, complaints thus far have included:

- patients who claim they were denied access to their records;
- allegedly inadequate safeguards or minimum-necessary procedures in the reception or treatment areas;
- claims that privacy notices were never posted or provided;
- claims that health plans failed to safeguard information properly - e.g., explanation of benefits sent to the wrong place or rosters of individuals being circulated that haven't been properly redacted; and
- things like Internet prescription companies that give access to more than just the individual who is trying to get a prescription" - e.g., in circumstances where the entire family can log onto an account.

Kaminsky adds that "insiders" in some health care companies are making complaints about their own organizations. "I don't know if I would call that full-fledged whistleblowing, but certainly something along those lines," she says.

To see a transcript of Kaminsky's comments, go to <http://ncvhs.hhs.gov/030624tr.htm>.

Source: Kathleen White, HIPAA Coordinator, State of AK, DHHS

CHECK OUT: *The 10 Most Inappropriate Responses Overheard in the Healthcare Workplace*
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/privacy/daytoday.htm>

RECRUITMENT: THE DREADED CAREER FAIR

In the last two editions of The Northline, recruitment has been reviewed as needed to keep HIM/HIA programs going, and to continue putting “new blood” into the profession. Career fairs are a key component of grassroots recruitment, and they are a lot of fun. Here is what you need to have to be prepared:

Do a little of your own research

Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report, Working Woman, and other publications will put out an edition once a year on best careers. Many times HIM is highlighted as a solid and growing career. Make photo copies of those articles and have them for reference at your table. Also, the Journal of AHIMA, For the Record, and Advance for HIM are full of articles on alternate careers with an HIM background. These publications have job postings that may also be of interest to those evaluating a career choice. Have some current issues at your table.

Contact your local job service or state job placement agency

Get a copy of State provided career listings, also for reference.

Check out <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos103.htm>

Contact Carol Liberty at UAS

her to send you some UAS program brochures and the recruitment video (if you will have a VCR) or CD (if you will have a laptop to play it on).

Print off the AHIMA site (Under “HIM Careers” click “Recruitment Toolbox”)

- ▶ Most recent membership statistics*
- ▶ AHIMA recruitment brochures*
- ▶ List of colleges that have HIT and HIA programs (usually one reference copy will do)

* *You may wish to display these on a presentation board to stand up on your table.*

You should be able to answer the following questions:

What is HIM? What do YOU do in your job?

How much school do I need? How and where do I get my education?

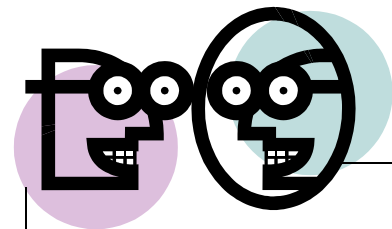
What kind of job can I get once I finish my education? How much can I expect to earn?

Some basics

- ▶ Dress and speak professionally. Keep your breath fresh, be friendly, and smile.
- ▶ Standing (although tiring) makes you look more open to talk with people vs. sitting behind a table.
- ▶ Be positive and encouraging to those with whom you speak.

Many career fairs take place in the Fall. Don't wait to be contacted, make the call yourself. Get in touch with your local college, job placement service or high school. They would love to have you participate in their efforts to get the word out about healthcare careers. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

- Marianne. Dailey



Ask

Share about:

- the work you do,
- the opportunities there are,
- the challenges you face,
- and the fun you've had!

CAREER OPTIONS: QUALITY PROFESSIONAL?



Thinking of a career change that could utilize your HIM experience? Perhaps you like the challenges of organization-wide performance improvement?

The National Association for Healthcare Quality is a growing association of healthcare quality professionals. The membership of over 6,000 professionals in this group may come from different healthcare backgrounds, but all have a common interest: improving the quality of healthcare and to supporting the development of professionals in healthcare quality.

Statistics from the most recent CPHQ (Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality) exam show that HIM professionals continue to place well among the fields represented. All HIM professionals submitted the exam were successful in passing the exam. NAHQ statistics further state that this credential is held largely by Registered Nurses (72%), however, HIM professionals make up 7% of CPHQs.

Alaska is home to 32 individual NAHQ members and 1 institutional member. The Alaska Association for Healthcare Quality works to provide state-wide support for quality initiatives. If you would like to learn more, visit www.nahq.org

Source: CPHQ News, Summer 2003.; and NAHQ web site.

ABBREVIATIONS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE JCAHO

National patient safety initiatives by the JCAHO, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, and others have put abbreviations into the limelight. Here are some tips from others around the nation who have been surveyed:

- An "approved abbreviations list" is required. This impacts handwritten and electronic documentation.
- An "unapproved abbreviations list" is required. Some recommend it include 10 as a minimum.
- Include monitoring for abbreviation use in your ongoing documentation review.
- A policy for how to handle unapproved abbreviations if found in your documentation.
- Organizations are seeing a variety of survey results for "small" infractions including type 1 recommendations for one unapproved abbreviation found in a patient's record.



For more information see www.jcaho.org. Click on FAQ for National Patient Safety



AND SPEAKING OF JCAHO...

For those of you who can't get enough of JCAHO, and feel you do not get enough e-mail, perhaps another list-serve is what you are looking for? Here is one you may not have heard of: "JCAHO Watch", sponsored by [Inside the Joint Commission](#). This free list-serve deals with all things related to JCAHO: abbreviations use, documentation, surveyor-specific information, recent survey summaries, and beyond. Though many "listees" are in the healthcare quality field, HIM professionals would benefit from many of the topics included on this list serve.

To subscribe: Go to <http://www.ucg.com/health/ijc.html>

www.akhima.org

Visit us at

2003 AKHIMA FALL CODING WORKSHOP
BP ENERGY CENTER, ANCHORAGE
OCTOBER 10, 2003

THE NORTHLINE

ALASKA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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