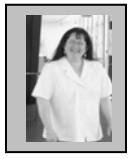




THE NORTHLINE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharena Sanders, RHIT

AKHIMA
Mission Statement

Our Mission is to promote the art and science of health information management by achieving and maintaining high standards of competency, developing education programs, and promoting professional growth.

Along with physicians, hospital administrators, and other health professionals, we continually strive to improve the quality of health care information for all Alaskans. We endeavor to meet challenges of a changing health care delivery system by providing competent assistance and contributions within the scope of our profession.

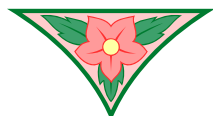
This is the *Official Call to Meeting of the 38th Annual Business Meeting* of the Alaska Health Information Management Association. The Business meeting will be held Thursday, April 26, 2007 from 12 Noon – 1:30 pm during our lunch break. Please plan to attend as we do need a quorum for the meeting to take place. This year's conference will be held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, Alaska from April 24-27, 2007. The Program Committee has put together a wonderful educational program of information you will be able to use to meet the many changes occurring in our field. Please take advantage of the opportunity to expand your knowledge, and network with other HIM professionals, both personally and professionally. Also, please take a moment to thank the Program Committee for all of their hard work in putting this program together.

Remember our Annual Silent Auction and don't forget to bring a donation. Also, take a moment to check out the items for auction. Bids may be placed at any time during breaks in the conference schedule, and winners will be announced at Friday's lunch. All proceeds from the silent auction fund our annual FORE donation and AKHIMA scholarships.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Vicki Ament , RHIT, CCS, CPC, has been promoted to Assistant Manager, Health Information Management Services at ANMC. Vickie is a 1997 graduate of the HIM program at the University of Alaska Southeast and is currently enrolled in the baccalaureate health information Management program through the University of Cincinnati. Congratulations Vicki!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
President's Message	1
Member Spotlight1	1
Regulatory Change	2
Program Committee News	2
Spring Conference Agenda	3&4
Meeting Registration	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Privacy & Security Week	7
Call for Nominations	8
Bulletin Board/Jobs	9
HIM Humor	9
<i>EDITOR: Cathy Gross, RHIT</i>	

AKHIMA Board of Directors



2006-2007 Board of Directors:

Sharena Sanders, RHIT, President
 Renee Skeels, RHIT, President-Elect
 Cathy Gross, RHIT, Past-President
 Renee Iler, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, 2nd-Year Director
 Michael Gage, RHIT CCS, Secretary
 Terry Keith, RHIA, Treasurer

REGULATORY CHANGE

In remote frontier areas of Alaska, weather and distance can prevent patients who experience severe injury or illness from obtaining immediate transport to an acute care hospital. For residents in some of those communities, providers offer observation services traditionally associated with acute care inpatient hospitals until the patient can be transferred or is no longer in need of transport. A new regulatory change will allow these facilities to be designated as a Frontier Extended Stay Clinic allowing for reimbursement of these services. Sandwiched onto these regulatory changes are a few that will impact those of us in the HIM field. The one that will impact us the most is the change for records completion, extending it from 15 to 30 days, which now meets that set forth in the federal regulations.

You will notice that the verbiage for our professional credential has changed in the regulations as well. However, they did not change it correctly for RHIT, only for the RHIA. This change took place based on testimony submitted by the AKHIMA Board of Directors. The following link will take you to the new regulations. <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/publicnotice/PDF/151.pdf>

PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

The program committee has been very busy the past few months planning this year's program. As always, we needed the help of our volunteer members to make this conference a success and they really came through. Included in this newsletter is a registration form for the fantastic four day event. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to team with AHIMA to bring Alaska their e-HIM workshop. Because of financial obligations associated with this, we were not able to offer the discounted rate for our membership for this workshop. However, there is a discount offered for the Wednesday-Friday session.

As we have stated in past newsletters, AKHIMA will continue to apply for prior approval for continuing education credits related to our educational workshops for our AAPC colleagues. AAPC rules do not allow for us to advertise these as pending, however, be assured that our program committee applies for these for all of our coding workshops.

If you have any questions regarding our Annual Spring Educational Meeting and Coding workshops, please contact Renee Iler through our website: akhima.org.

ALASKA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
ANNUAL SPRING CODING WORKSHOP & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 24-27, 2007
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA ~ BP ENERGY CENTER



e-HIM: Turning Theory Into Practice

AKHIMA is partnering with the American Health Information Management Association to bring e-HIM to Alaska! Join us on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 for our pre-conference seminar, and take advantage of this great opportunity to step forward in your organization and be a major player in the implementation of electronic health records.

Presenters: Jill Burrington-Brown, MS, RHIA from Snohomish, Washington
and Terry Keith, RHIA, from Anchorage, Alaska

For more information: <http://www.ahima.org/infocenter/ehim/ehimmeetinghome.asp>

8 CEUs offered for the full day workshop!

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Coding Workshop

Candi Miller, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, from Brown Consulting Associates, Inc. will cover the following topics during her all-day session on Wednesday.

- E&M Coding
- Modifier Usage
- Chart Auditing

Thursday, April 26, 2007

General Session

- Keynote Address – Jerry Lewis, Motivational Speaker

Session I –Gloryanne Bryant, RHIA, CCS, Catholic Healthcare West’s Corporate Director
Coding HIM Compliance is back by popular demand, and will cover the following:

- OIG and RAC DRG
- Physician Queries
- ICD-9 Coding



Thursday, April 26, 2007, continued

Session II

- Managing Changes and Transition – Jerry Lewis
- Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation – Terry Keith, RHIA
- Managing Multiple Priorities – Jerry Lewis
- Legal Health Record – Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA

Don't miss out! We are taking reservations for our annual Thursday evening networking dinner, held at the Glacier Brewhouse this year. Transportation provided!

Friday, April 27

General Session – Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA

- AHIMA Update
- AHIMA Code of Ethics

Session I

- How to Grow Your Own Coder – Frances Maier, RHIA, CCS, CPC
- Coding Clinic Favorite Guidelines – Gloryanne Bryant, RHIA, CCS

Session II

Karen Newton

Education Representative

Medicare Part A

- General Update
- Online Learning Center Presentation
- SNF Consolidated Billing
- CERT.
- Swing Beds

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Residence Inn ~ Toll Free Reservations: 800-314-0781. Mention AKHIMA for discounted rate.

Studio Suite	\$ 95 + Tax
1 Bedroom Suite	\$ 99+ Tax
2 Bedroom Suite	\$ 129 + Tax

Rooms must be reserved by April 14, 2007 for guaranteed availability and discounted rates!



A PROUD SPONSOR OF AKHIMA'S ANNUAL CODING WORKSHOP AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

TREASURER'S REPORT

Terry Keith, RHIA

A full treasurer's report will be given to the membership at the annual business meeting held in Anchorage in April.

AKHIMA DUES ARE DUE!

Did you remember to pay your AKHIMA dues? They were due January 1, 2007.

Why pay AKHIMA dues? Did you know that by paying your AKHIMA dues, you are offered discounts at two educational meetings per year? At \$25 per day attended, this can add up to \$150 per year! Now that's a great deal!

If you have any questions, please email Terry Keith, our treasurer, at terry@akhima.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AKHIMA SPRING CONFERENCE

April 24—27 , 2007

BP Energy Center
Anchorage, Alaska

AHIMA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

~ Oct. 6-11, 2007

Seattle, Washington

~ Oct. 11-16, 2008

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like to submit an article, or have any HIM news, please email Cathy Gross, RHIT, at cathy@akhima.org



Update Your AHIMA Profile



The last Northline was sent to AKHIMA membership via email. Again, I had about 30 returns from non-valid email addresses. The contact information for the Northline is obtained through AHIMA's profile, so if you don't remember to update this information, you won't be receiving the Northline. Please go to AHIMA's website and check to ensure that your information is accurate, and then remind your fellow AKHIMA members to do this same.





Privacy & Security Week

by Sharena Sanders, RHIT

As privacy officer of my organization I get some strange phone calls. A manager called me last week with a question about one of their clinic patients. It appears that Mr. Joseph, an 88 year old terminally ill cancer patient came to the emergency room. He was seen and admitted to the cancer unit. The nurse who discharged him from the ER placed in the EMR that the patient was discharged/expired instead of admitted. The next day when he did not show up for his regular clinic visit, the clinic nurse, Nora, looked in the EMR and saw that he had expired in the ER. Nora called Ann at the registration desk of the clinic to cancel the remainder of his appointments due to his death. Ann knew that Mr. Joseph was the uncle of her friend Jane's husband and being the good friend that she was called Ann to give her condolences. This upset Ann because she had heard nothing of Mr. Joseph's death and was in the process of notifying her husband when her manager told her she could not call him with the news because it would be a HIPAA violation since she heard about it through work. Ann understood and waited for her husband to call. After several hours she had still not heard from the family so she called her husband's aunt to inquire of the uncle's health. You can imagine Ann's surprise when she was told that he was about the same and they were taking him home from the hospital so that he would be more comfortable. Mr. Joseph died at home 2 days later with his family around him.

Things like this happen every day. It is our responsibility to educate our staff and organization about the importance of appropriate documentation. They know this, but don't necessarily think of the repercussions of errors of this kind. We must also emphasize the importance of privacy; knowing when and when not to say anything.

I notified the ER manager and he took care of correcting the record, individual and overall nurse education regarding appropriate documentation in the EHR. The manager of the clinic educated Nora, the clinic nurse, to be thorough in reviewing the entire chart before canceling appointments and documenting the death of patients. The clinic manager gave a written warning to Ann for a privacy breach when she called Jane to give condolences.

Health Information Privacy and Security Week is April 8 through 14 and is designed to raise awareness among healthcare professionals, their employers, and the public of the importance of protecting the privacy, confidentiality, and security of personal health information. It is vital for us as HIM professionals to promote the importance of privacy in our organizations. We have a duty to our patients as well as to ourselves to be the ones who are known as the "Privacy Specialists" in our organizations, and most importantly **we must practice what we preach!** (Names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals involved)



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – 2007 Election

This is the official call for nominations for Election 2007. Please take a moment of your time and nominate a fellow AKHIMA member, or self-nominate and place your name on the ballot for one of the following elected positions. Please use the following form. Contact Cathy Gross, RHIT, Nominating Committee Chair: cathy@akhima.org with any questions.

Alaska Health Information Management Association, Inc. CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Mark the Appropriate nomination type:

- I/we wish to recommend the following person to the Nominating Committee for the position checked below.
- I am interested in placing my name before the Nominating Committee to be considered for the ballot for the AKHIMA. I am willing to run for the position(s) checked below. I have read the duties and responsibilities of this/these position(s).

Name: _____ Credential(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

- President-Elect (3 year term)
- 1st. Year Director (2 year term)
- Treasurer (2 year term)
- AKHIMA Nominating Committee

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: State any facts which may qualify this individual for AKHIMA office:

Has this nominee been contacted about this recommendation? Yes No

Has this nominee agreed to this nomination? Yes No

Nomination submitted by: _____

Mail form to: AKHIMA P.O. Box 230335 Anchorage, AK 99523-0335
ATTN: Nominating Committee

Email form to: Cathy Gross @ cathy@akhima.org

BULLETIN BOARD

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Coding Reimbursement Specialist

[South Peninsula Hospital](#) Full time position. Coding Reimbursement Specialist will be CCS, RHIT, or RHIA and 2+ years of acute care coding experience required. Knowledge of LTC, Cancer Registry, UM, and 3M encoder experience is a plus. Must possess an enthusiasm and passion for coding. [Apply online](#) or [email](#) or mail to: South Peninsula Hospital, 4300 Bartlett St., Homer, AK 99603 Telephone: (907) 235-0386/0265. FAX Resumes to: (907) 235-0281

Assistant HIMS Director ,Biller Collector I, and Biller Collector II.

[Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation](#), PO Box 130, Dillingham, AK 99576. [Apply online](#), or Toll free in Alaska: 1-800-478-5201, ext. 6325, Direct: 907-842-9325. Mailing address: BBAHC's Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 130, Dillingham, Alaska 99576.

Medical Transcriptionist (HIM TECH I): Fulltime position Transcribes confidential medical records dictated by health care providers. Work from home! HS grad or equivalent and one-year's medical transcription experience or course-work in medical terminology required. RHIT or CMT preferred. Must accurately type min. 65 WPM and have one-year experience with word processing systems. Open until filled. Call Bartlett HR (796-8418) for application and send to HR, Bartlett Regional Hospital, 3260 Hospital Dr. Juneau, AK or apply [online](#).

Coding Concepts, Inc.

505 W. Northern Lights Blvd. #218, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
877-277-2501 Office Toll Free
907-277-2501 Office



HIM Humor

I was sitting in the waiting room of the hospital after my wife had gone into labor and the nurse walked out and said to the man sitting next to me, *"Congratulations sir, you're the new father of twins!"*

The man replied, *"How about that, I work for the Doublemint Chewing Gum Company."* The man then followed the woman to his wife's room.

About an hour later, the same nurse entered the waiting room and announced that Mr. Smith's wife has just had triplets.

Mr. Smith stood up and said, *"Well, how do ya like that, I work for the 3M Company."*

The gentleman that was sitting next to me then got up and started to leave. When I asked him why he was leaving, he remarked, *"I think I need a breath of fresh air."* The man continued, *"I work for 7-UP."*