HIM Vet Helps Psychiatric Hospital Go Electronic

Using solely electronic records sometimes takes getting used to. Staff at Silver Hill Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in New Canaan, CT, is still adjusting to the fact that—after their recent EHR implementation—all patient information is stored paper free.

“I will have people call and say ‘I need the chart,’” said Diane Drozd, RHIA, the director of HIM at Silver Hill. ‘And I’ll say, ‘it’s in the OpenVista.’ And they say ‘No, the paper part.’ I have to say ‘No, that is in there too.’ So it’s a whole mindset change.”

Leading the EHR Revolution
Silver Hill is one of only a small number of psychiatric hospitals in the nation to implement a large-scale EHR. The hospital launched its OpenVista system in February, an act that changed much for both providers and HIM staff, Drozd said.
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In New York, DeVry University operates as DeVry College of New York and as DeVry Institute of Technology in Calgary.
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based HIE organizations, a nearly 40 per cent increase in the number of initiatives exchanging information since 2008.

**Clinical Data Exchange Models**

HIE organizations are structured differently, using centralized, federated, or hybrid models for exchanging clinical data.

**Centralized**—HIE participants send patient demographic and clinical information to one shared repository. Participating providers query the centralized repository to obtain patient’s clinical results and other information.

**Federated**—Individual participating organizations each retain ownership, control, and access to their records behind their own firewalls, without storing the clinical information in a central repository. Participants query a master patient index (MPI) or record locator service (RLS) and connect directly to the peer institution to request patient records.

**Hybrid**—A combination of both models, with some organizations using the federated repositories and other organizations using the central repository.

**Hot Button Issues**

HIE has the potential to revolutionize patient-centered care. However, some challenges lay ahead before that promise comes to fruition.

“Hospitals already exchange information from the ‘mother ship’ with all kinds of outlying or remote destinations. Now, HIE adds a new level of complexity with multiple participants,” said Barbara Demster, RHIA, MS, CHCQM, chief compliance officer for Benchmark Consulting Services and privacy and security consultant in Memphis, TN.

Here are three hot button issues related to the integrity, accuracy, and security of the information being exchanged:

1. **Patient Identity Management**—Disparate healthcare organizations do not share a common, unique identifier for their patients. Not only that, each organization has separate account numbers, medical record numbers, enterprise numbers, and other identifiers for its patients.

“It gets very complicated when integrated health delivery systems come together to share a patient’s data. Any one of those may have that patient or all of them may have that patient, and all have different patient identifiers and different EHR software,” said Torzewski. Common problems include:
• Duplicates—more than one entry or file for the same person in a single facility-level MPI.
• Overlaps—more than one MPI entry or file for the same person in two or more facilities within an enterprise.
• Overlays—one MPI entry or file for more than one person (i.e., two people share the same identifier).

Maintaining accurate and complete MPIs have become paramount, and patient locator services are developing as integral components of HIE. A new HIM role (data integrity manager of the enterprise’s MPI) is emerging, which oversees the quality of patient identity data for all electronic and paper patient records.

2. Data Management—Technology alone won’t ensure that a patient’s lifetime records are accurate, complete, authenticated, and accessible. Core HIM principles are as important in the electronic health information environment as in the paper realm.

“HIM professionals understand data as information, where others may see it as just a data element passing through their system,” said Demster, who co-chairs the HIE practice council with Torzewski. “Without that HIM knowledge base to validate the data, a system can look efficient, but it may be passing bad data.”

HIM professionals should build their core principles into HIE workflows. As HIE organizations form, HIM professionals can help them:
- Define the data exchange model and the specific data to be exchanged.
- Develop standards for how data quality will be measured.
- Develop standards for acceptable data quality.
- Assess the process to capture patient identity and ensure consistency across participating organizations.
- Provide standards for tracking and measuring the duplicate medical record rate and determining the reasons for errors.
- Audit the accuracy of the electronic linking of records between participants.
- Audit the accuracy of clinical documentation and report results to the HIE’s governing board.
- Develop privacy and security policies for accessing the HIE system.
- Provide training in proper business processes for maintaining patient data integrity within and across organizations.

CareSpark has developed a data sharing and reciprocal service agreement (DURSA) which has served as a model for other HIEs. “That’s another way my HIM background has been helpful, in assuring that these agreements address HIPAA rules and data security guidelines,” said Torzewski.

3. Secure Data Transport—Secure data transport supports data integrity and confidentiality between communicating applications. The stakes are higher within the context of HIE. If you have a corrupted database (for whatever reason: poor data collection processes, inadequate data transport security, hacked database, or poor interface implementation, among others) it can affect patient identity integrity for all participants across the HIE organization, according to Demster.

HHS guidance on breach notification of unsecured PHI provides several acceptable approaches for securing data at rest and in transit, such as secure sockets layer (SSL) and the later transport layer security (TLS) protocol. These protocols are designed to ensure authentication, confidentiality, and data integrity between communicating applications. According to Demster, “Good technology is only part of the solution for patient identity integrity. Sound HIM business processes must support the technology and standards to provide the whole solution.”

To get up to speed, read the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guides on data storage and data transport security. “If it seems too complicated on your own, start a study group that includes a subject matter expert,” said Demster. (See the “Additional Resources” sidebar on page 5 for recommended publications.)

**CCD Vs. CCR**

We hear about HL7’s Continuity of Care Document (CCD) and ASTM’s Continuity of Care Record (CCR). What’s the difference and which one should be used? Here’s a quick rundown.

When a hospital discharges a patient to another care setting, such as a nursing home, home health, or rehabilitation facility, basic information comes with the patient so the receiving caregiver can begin care.

The ASTM Committee on Health Informatics moved the old paper agreements into an electronic CCR in XML format.

HL7 and ASTM came together to enhance the CCR by combining it with the HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) specifications to create the CDR. The US Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) has selected the CCD as one of its standards.

**Contribute Your Expertise to HIE**

This article has mentioned several ways HIM professionals can help healthcare and HIE organizations utilize sound HIM principles. The HIE practice council wrote a volunteer position summary that lists 19 areas. Here are a few key ones where your expertise can really shine:
- Help guide the development of policies and procedures for privacy and security of health information as it moves over the Internet.
- Participate in describing and defining data integrity rules.
- Serve as a resource to health information technology and HIE standard development groups.
- Educate colleagues and lead the effort to ensure MPI integrity.
Additional Resources
Web sites you can use to learn more about HIE issues.

The AHIMA FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge—A comprehensive resource for articles, practice briefs, and position papers. “Managing the Integrity of Patient Identity in HIE” and “HIM Principles in Health Information Exchange” are two practice briefs to get you started.

HIE Initiatives
AHIMA HIE Resources—AHIMA’s position on HIE, with detail on industry and standards activities as well as resources

eHealth Initiative—Progress of 129 chartered health information exchanges

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

State Level Health Information Exchange

Secure Data Transport
NIST security guidelines
• NIST SP 800-111, Guide to Storage Encryption Technologies for End User Devices
• NIST SP 800-52, Guidelines for the Selection and Use of Transport Layer Security (TLS) Implementations
• NIST SP 800-77, Guide to IPsec VPNs
• NIST SP 800-113, Guide to SSL VPNs
• HITSP: T-17 HITSP Secure Communication Channel Transaction

Other HIE Data Standards
Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)—harmonized standards

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE)—consent directive profiles

Privacy and Security
The Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration—Impact analysis report.

» Member profile continued from page 1

OpenVista, designed by Medsphere, is based off the open-source VistA EHR platform developed and used by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The system’s relatively low cost and open functionality made it a good fit for Silver Hill, a smaller, independent hospital.

This was not the first EHR installment for Drozd—she could be considered an implementation pro. Over the past several years Drozd has worked in several acute care facilities as an HIM director, implementing a total of five EHR systems. But this was the first implementation for her in a psychiatric hospital, and the first time the implementation electrified the entire medical records system.

While most of the EHR implementation challenges at Silver Hill were similar to those at an acute care facility, some unique factors needed to be considered. Group therapy is a main focus of treatment in behavioral health, and notes created from those sessions make up a large part of a patient’s medical record. When implementing the EHR, Silver Hill staff had to ensure the system could properly process group therapy notes, allow documentation of patient participation, and then direct those notes electronically to each individual patient’s record that took part in the group session.

Keeping HIM Staff Involved
Drozd started work at Silver Hill in 2006, and soon began serving on the facility’s EMR steering committee. When the time came to implement the OpenVista EHR, Drozd was included in the planning from the start through the committee. And with due reason—HIM brings a unique historical and legal perspective on information use, processes, and storage that is vital for the proper implementation of an EHR, she said.

“I was intimately involved in this whole process, which I found to be refreshing and enjoyable because often HIM takes a bit of a back seat,” she said. “I didn’t have to claw my way in, they recognized what HIM could bring to the table. And that was great.”

Adjusting to a New Processes
HIM operations have changed substantially at Silver Hill since the new EHR. Chart assembly and record folder-making is no more. Also, the HIM team no longer has to conduct chart deficiency analysis. That task is done automatically through the EHR system, with deficiencies electronically sent to the appropriate physicians.

The general HIM operations at a psychiatric hospital are similar to acute care, Drozd said, though the privacy of patients is considered especially important. Extra privacy measures are put in place to protect the disclosure of patient’s information. For example, in acute care facilities patients can opt in or opt out of having their name listed in the hospital directory. At Silver Hill, the patients are not given an option—no one is ever listed in a directory.

“If someone calls and asks for them, we make the statement that ‘we can’t confirm or deny that the patient is here,’” Drozd said. Just the disclosure that a person is in a psychiatric hospital is considered by many a breach of privacy.

Requests for the release of a patient’s medical record are also carefully scrutinized. “A unique challenge is being extra sensitive about release of information,” Drozd said. “And making sure that when somebody calls you really feel like they are involved in the patient’s care and that the patient has authorized that. Not that we don’t do that in acute care. But the information is not quite as sensitive.”

After 40 years in the profession, Drozd isn’t close to being bored with the work. Implementations like these keep her sharp, as does the general variety of HIM tasks. “I enjoy the variety, I enjoy being able to work with IT, the legal department, risk management, working with doctors, and being a part of quality improvement and evaluating the quality of care and documentation,” she said. “HIM is multifaceted.”
The past several years have been filled with huge initiatives in healthcare policy. In 2009, Congress passed and the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, with its inclusion of the Health Information Technology Economic and Clinical Health Act, or HITECH. In addition to HITECH, the bill included a wide-range of health information management and health information technology-related issues such as telemedicine and broadband technology expansion.

To date, 2010 has brought the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. These comprehensive reform bills contained administrative simplification, operating rules, health information technology grants for long-term care facilities, and a plethora of quality provisions.

With the passing of legislation of such magnitude and the resultant development of regulations and standards with a direct impact on HIM professionals, AHIMA understood that it was imperative to provide members with the abundance of our advocacy and policy information in a better way.

Several years ago, members of AHIMA’s practice leadership and policy and government relations staff embarked upon a journey to examine the advocacy and policy resources and redesign and better define how they were presented. The result is the new AHIMA Advocacy and Public Policy Center at www.ahima.org/advocacy. When you land on this site, you will notice a variety of options to find what you are looking for.

### Analyzing the New Site

When you first land on the site, you’ll see “What’s New” and “Action Alerts.” This section provides the most recent activity from AHIMA and matters relevant to the association. In addition, if the association needs your help writing Congress, any of the agencies, or with anything on the policy front, you will see a call to action. In the section “AHIMA Comments and Resources,” you will find a chronological listing of these documents.

Along the right hand side are featured sections, which include public policy, ARRA-HITECH, and industry and standards. These topical sections also break down into more specific areas:

- **Public policy is segmented into:**
  - **Regulations and federal activities** including items separated alphabetically into topical areas such as accounting for disclosures, meaningful use, privacy, and security. Also located here are packages of information on AHIMA’s comments and what the association is or may be responding to.
  - **Legislation** contains major legislative items garnering AHIMA attention and any analysis or correspondence completed on these items.
  - **Comments, testimony, analysis, correspondence, and resources** is a catch-all category that has all of AHIMA’s efforts listed in chronological order.

- **The ARRA-HITECH page** contains sections on:
  - The HIM to-do list as initiated by ARRA
  - ARRA-HITECH FAQs
  - ARRA topics including: action alerts, legislation and regulations, meaningful use, EHRs, privacy and security, data quality and measures, workforce, HIM education, and resources for regional extension centers.

- **Industry and standards** contains information from non-federal bodies addressing:
  - EHR/legal EHR
  - personal health information
  - health information exchange
  - privacy, security, and confidentiality
  - clinical terminologies
  - data quality management and data content
  - healthcare settings
    - physician practice and ambulatory care
    - long-term and post-acute care

Finally, the left side of the Advocacy and Public Policy site is a general topical area that includes all of the information above along with links to AHIMA’s position statements, advocacy agenda, the Advocacy Assistant, press information, podcasts, and resources.

Please visit the new Advocacy and Public Policy Center and let us know what you think. The site is intended to provide you with relevant information in the most logical and easy to use format. E-mail us with your comments.

» A new Advocacy and Public Policy Web site keeps members current on the latest legislative news.
AHIMA Fellowship Program Celebrates New Members

The AHIMA Fellowship Program is a program of earned recognition for AHIMA members who have made significant and sustained contributions to the profession. Individuals who earn fellowship may use the designation Fellow of the American Health Information Management Association (FAHIMA). A list of all AHIMA Fellows is available here.

List of New Fellows

In April, the Fellowship Review Committee awarded AHIMA Fellowship to the following four members: Sue E. Biedermann, MSHP, RHIA, FAHIMA; Mona M. Burke, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA; Virginia E. Evans, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA; and Beth H. Just, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA.

Fellows Share Pride, Passion

Fellows all share pride regarding receiving this designation. Beth H. Just, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA, sums up this sentiment. “I am thrilled to be associated with an organization made up of such diverse and talented individuals. To be accepted by AHIMA as a Fellow is a tremendous honor.”

Mona M. Burke, RHIA, FAHIMA, agrees and provides an additional perspective. “The Fellowship award is an excellent program not only to recognize professional contributions of practitioners, but also recognizes the facilities and organizations, such as Bowling Green State University, that have provided the work environment and opportunity to participate fully in the advancement of the health information profession.”

Professional participation is part of the application and all Fellows provide significant hours of services to AHIMA and CSAs. Virginia E. (Ginna) Evans, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA, describes herself and volunteering. “I am passionate about my HIM volunteerism, particularly with my state association and also mentoring students. My many years of participation in HIM activities helped me achieve fellow status and I hope in turn to mentor other professionals to be involved and reach for the status of fellowship,” Evans said.

Fellow status also provides accomplishment and recognition in the field. Sue E. Biedermann, MSHP, RHIA, FAHIMA, said, “I believe that the fellowship status has provided a means of recognition outside of the HIM profession as the fellowship designation is one that is shared by many other professions with an understanding of what it means.”

To learn more about becoming an AHIMA Fellow and to access the application deadline, click here. Read more about the Fellowship application process on page 8 of this issue.
Upcoming Audio Seminars, Webinars
Learn more about all audio seminars and webinars.

June 3
Under Pressure? Coding the Stages of Pressure Ulcers

June 15
RACs: Walking through the Appeal Process

June 17
Coding and Documentation Tips for RAC Audits

June 29
Guiding Your HIM Department through Economic Challenges

July 15
Keep Up the Pace: Coding for Cardiac Monitoring Devices

July 20
Maternity Care and Delivery Procedural Coding

July 22
Procedural Coding for Gynecologic Care

August 5
Interventional Radiology Coding

Upcoming Meetings

June 7–8
Long-Term and Post-Acute Care HIT Summit
Baltimore, MD

June 17–19
AHIMA Academy for ICD-10
Boston, MA

July 16
Summer Team Talks
Chicago, IL

July 17–18
Leadership Conference
Chicago, IL

July 18
Coding Roundtable
Chicago, IL

Important Information for the Upcoming AHIMA Election
The theme for AHIMA’s 2010 election is “Real Leadership in a Time of Real Change.” We ask that you join us in our efforts to be heard. Help get the message out to your fellow HIM professionals to cast their vote. The polls will open June 7 at 12 a.m. CDT and close on June 25 at 11:59 p.m. CDT.

Members will be able to cast their vote via the myAHIMA Member Login. The June Journal of AHIMA has each candidate’s brief bio, job description, and photo, while the AHIMA community in the CoP will house a more detailed profile of the candidates and their position statement. The electronic ballot will have a biographical profile for each candidate for you to review while voting. Be sure to visit www.ahima.org and log into myAHIMA to vote and also check the AHIMA community for more information.

Upcoming House of Delegates Voting
Several actions items have been brought forth for consideration by the AHIMA House of Delegates. The House Team on House Operations is bringing forward two amendments to the AHIMA Bylaws, one on delegate apportionment and one on House composition. The House Team on Best Practices/Standards is bringing forth a resolution titled “Leading the Transition to ICD-10,” and the AHIMA Clinical Documentation Improvement e-HIM workgroup is bringing forth ethical standards for CDI professionals.

A subsidiary motion has been presented to postpone voting on the AHIMA Bylaws amendments related to delegate apportionment. The electronic vote of the House will occur from June 7–18 and will include the subsidiary motion to postpone voting on delegate apportionment, the “Leading the Transition to ICD-10” resolution, and the ethical standards for CDI professionals. Access the State Leaders and House of Delegates CoP for the latest information. Results will be reported in upcoming AHIMA publications.

AHIMA Convention and Exhibit Registration Open
The 82nd AHIMA Convention and Exhibit will take place September 25–30 at the Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Expect the illuminating educational opportunities, valuable networking, informative speakers, dynamic exhibits, and career-enhancing sessions you’ve come to expect from this annual event. Global transformation is happening all around us. Discover how to leverage the historic opportunities that come with it. Registration is open now and early bird savings are available until September 1. Learn more.

Take Part in AHIMA’s 2010 Member Referral Program iShare
Have you heard about iShare and the benefits and opportunities of AHIMA membership? As an AHIMA member, you’ve enjoyed a host of career-enhancing membership benefits. Wouldn’t you like to share those benefits with your fellow professionals by bringing them on board as full members in the association? Encourage them to join online. Make sure they provide your name and e-mail address on the online membership application to give you full credit for enlisting them. You’ll earn a chance to win one of three American Express gift card prizes in the amount of $1,000 for first prize, $500 for second prize, and $250 for third prize.

Fellowship Application Deadline Approaching
Consider becoming a Fellow of AHIMA. The AHIMA Fellowship Program is a program of earned recognition for AHIMA members who made significant and sustained contributions to the profession. Learn more and access an application. Also at this site you can see the AHIMA Registry of Fellows. The Fellowship program has two designations: fellowship and candidacy for fellowship. There are two remaining submission deadlines in 2010: August 31 and November 30, so apply today. Learn more about the newest AHIMA Fellows on page 7 of this issue.

Thanks and recognition to the members of the 2010 Fellowship Review Committee: Janice E. Crocker, MSA, RHIA, CCS, CHP,
Betty L. Haines, RHIT, died in April. Haines’ career as a medical record technician led her to work in and manage medical record departments at Odessa, Midland, and Andrews, TX. She obtained her RHIT certification in 1963 and served the Texas Health Information Management Association on the Board of Directors and many committees and district offices.

**Take Part in AHIMA's Live Learning Center**
AHIMA's online Live Learning Center grants access to featured AHIMA meetings content all year round. Did you miss a meeting or our annual convention? Select sessions from the 2009 AHIMA Convention and meetings are available for purchase in MP3 format. When you use the AHIMA Live Learning Center you earn continuing education units applicable toward credential maintenance. Learn more about the AHIMA Live Learning Center.

**AHIMA Corporate Solutions Available**
AHIMA's Corporate Solutions provide single-source HIM training, assessments, and employee benefits support for one price, under one contract. Customized to your staff’s unique needs and delivered electronically, the program offers flexibility and access to webinars, audio seminars, and distance education delivered by professional trainers and educators. To learn more contact Robert Nelson at (312) 233-1149.

**New Online Course from AHIMA: Best Practices in Release of Information**
“Best Practices in Release of Information” provides an overview of key release of information (ROI) principles and recommended management methods for efficient and effective ROI practices. Receive a thorough review of the both the federal and state legal aspects (for example, HIPAA and the Privacy Act) affecting ROI. Afterwards, you’ll identify what constitutes a valid authorization and when one is needed and not needed; understand patient rights to information; and discuss ROI workflow. Register here.

**Get Jazzed with AHIMA's AOE, FDI**
Join health information education leaders in New Orleans at AHIMA's Assembly on Education (AOE) and Faculty Development Institute (FDI) July 24–28. Addressing the latest challenges and opportunities in health information education, AOE and FDI will prepare you to manage ICD-10 transition, ARRA funding, and workforce development. Learn more and register.

**New from AHIMA Press**
Learn to transform data into accurate and timely information and prepare to advance your career with AHIMA's resources on health data analytics. Whether you are working with data or preparing to take your Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA) exam, AHIMA's books will give you a strong foundation for understanding health information data. Learn more about *A Practical Approach to Analyzing Healthcare Data* and the *Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA) Reference Guide*.

**Member News**

**In Memoriam**
Patricia Arvantides, RHIA, of Baldwinsville, NY, founder of Medical Coding Services, Inc., died in March. Arvantides founded MCS in 1996 and built the company from the ground up. She retired in 2004 after 20 years in the HIM field and was the benefactor of the Patricia Arvantides Scholarship Fund for students attending the HIM program at the Statue University of New York Institute of Technology.

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The AHIMA Foundation greatly appreciates support from AHIMA members, friends, individuals, corporations, and component state associations. Your contributions help us continue to provide HIM education and research funding. Gifts can be made in honor or in memory of someone special and named scholarship funds can also be established. Visit http://www.ahima-foundation.org/Support/Support.aspx to learn more about ways to support the AHIMA Foundation.
CCHIIM Outlines ICD-10 Continuing Education Requirements

The HIM field is constantly evolving. In addition to ARRA and HITECH, the next few years will be an exciting and critical period of development for the healthcare industry because of the transition to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS.

The transition is anticipated to improve the capture of healthcare information and bring the United States in step with coding systems worldwide. The value of this transition will be broad and far-reaching throughout the healthcare industry, resulting in greater coding accuracy and lower costs, as well as countless other benefits. With these important changes on the horizon, the required competencies of AHIMA-certified professionals will be shifting as well.

Benefits of Certification
AHIMA-certified professionals represent the industry’s best and brightest. The rigorous exam and continuing education hours required to recertify ensure that members maintain ongoing competencies in the domain areas in which they are certified. But with the transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS, AHIMA certified professionals will need to demonstrate knowledge in additional domains as well. As a result, the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) has implemented a new recertification policy specific to ICD-10-CM/PCS.

CCHIIM has determined that continuing education hours based upon ICD-10-CM/PCS content will be required, as applicable to the specific AHIMA credential(s) held by the individual. Earning these CEUs validates that certified professionals have gained sufficient knowledge of the new coding system and are able to integrate this knowledge into their position.

Outlining the New Policy
The new policy requires all AHIMA-certified professionals to participate in a predetermined number of mandatory baseline educational experiences focusing specifically on ICD-10-CM/PCS. These ICD-10-CM/PCS specific CEUs will count as part of AHIMA certificants’ total CEU requirements for the overall purpose of recertification.

New CEU Requirements
The number of CEUs varies by credential because they reflect the competencies associated with that specific credential. The total number of ICD-10-CM/PCS continuing education units (CEUs) required by AHIMA credential is as follows:

- CHPS—1 CEU
- CHDA—6 CEUs

- RHIT—6 CEUs
- RHIA—6 CEUs
- CCS-P—12 CEUs
- CCS—18 CEUs
- CCA—18 CEUs

In other words, the above ICD-10-CM/PCS CEUs are included as part of the existing total required CEUs for each cycle. For example, as stated in the recertification policy, an RHIT must complete 20 hours of continuing education. With this new policy, six of those hours must focus on ICD-10-CM/PCS training. An RHIT is not required to earn 20 CEUs and then six additional CEUs on ICD-10-CM/PCS.

Certificants who hold more than one AHIMA credential will only report the highest number of CEUs from the credentials held. For example, if a certificant holds both an RHIA and CCS, the certificant would normally report 50 CEUs per recertification cycle, and 18 of these CEUs will be required to cover ICD-10-CM/PCS.

Customizing Your CEUs
CCHIIM also recognizes that HIM professionals have different needs in regards to ICD-10-CM/PCS. To reap the most benefits from their continuing education hours, AHIMA-certified professionals are encouraged to choose experiences which relate as closely as possible to their job roles.

The needs of a CCA regularly assigning codes are very different than a CHPS who needs a more high-level awareness of the system structure and its potential impact on workflow processes. Even HIM professionals who think the ICD-10-CM/PCS transition will have little effect on their daily tasks will need a general understanding of the changes to performance at their best.

AHIMA-certified professionals are able to begin earning ICD-10-CM/PCS specific CEUs during the period of January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2013. Additional information on reporting these CEUs and more specific recommended training areas/educational activities will be released no later than September 30, 2010. Please visit AHIMA’s recertification page for more information.
AHIMA Foundation Hosts Corporate Industry Briefing, Prepares for Auction

In the midst of the historic signing of the health reform legislation, executives from over 30 companies gathered at the seventh annual Corporate Industry Briefing on March 24 in Washington, DC.

This annual event, presented by AHIMA and the AHIMA Foundation (sponsored this year by DeVry University) provides an exclusive forum for dynamic information exchange on important industry developments between invited corporate executives and health industry experts in the public and private sectors. A welcome reception was also held for attendees on March 23, and was sponsored by The Friedman Marketing Group.

The annual Corporate Industry Briefing also affords an opportunity for AHIMA and AHIMA Foundation corporate sponsors and donors to network with colleagues and provide input into solutions and outstanding issues challenging health information and the health industry at large. The audience brought varying perspectives from their industry sectors and organizations. Participants engaged in important dialogue about emerging health reform changes and industry challenges in electronic health record adoption, implementation, and related workforce implications.

Timely Topics
Topics covered at this year’s event ranged from translating research into practice, meaningful use, health workforce, privacy and security issues, to implications of ARRA and HITECH. Speakers included US Representative David Wu (D-OR); Susan Dentzer, Editor-in-Chief of Health Affairs; and David Hunt, MD, Chief Medical Officer of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

Thought Leaders Lecture Series Launches
During the Corporate Industry Briefing, Dentzer gave the inaugural lecture of the AHIMA Foundation’s new “Thought Leaders” lecture series, supported through the AHIMA Foundation’s “Transforming Health Information” campaign. Through the generous philanthropic support of both HealthPort and Precyse Solutions, Dentzer’s remarks, “Driving Research Results into Practice,” will be made available to the public on the AHIMA Foundation’s Web site in the coming months. The video recording is available on the AHIMA Foundation’s Web site. Learn more about the Corporate Industry Briefing and other Foundation-related news here.

Gearing Up for the 2010 Not-So-Silent Auction
The AHIMA Foundation is continuing its tradition of the Not-So-Silent Auction at this year’s AHIMA Convention and Exhibit, September 25–28. Donating an item to the auction is a great opportunity to showcase your organization while supporting the AHIMA Foundation Merit Scholarship Program. Merit scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding graduate and undergraduate students pursuing degrees in HIM and HIT. Last year, the Not-So-Silent Auction raised over $31,000, which helped the AHIMA Foundation award 64 scholarships to deserving HIM students. With member support for this important cause, the AHIMA Foundation hopes to increase those numbers in 2010.

Learn more about donating items to the 2010 Not-So-Silent Auction and access an online donation reservation form. For questions regarding the Not-So-Silent Auction, please contact Janice Mackovitch.
Continuing to Develop a Privacy, Security Leadership Plan

HIM professionals have the skills and knowledge to lead privacy and security operations in their organizations. AHIMA continues to support our industry leaders with resources in protecting the privacy and security of personal health information. Health information professionals have received training in the privacy, security, and confidentiality built into course curriculum and continuing education. As such, AHIMA is committed to providing our members the products and resources they need to ensure compliance in this area.

This article is a continuation of an article in the February 2010 issue of AHIMA Advantage that provided members with core resources for maintaining privacy and security leadership and ongoing efforts in their organization.

Preparing for Change

Communicating with consumers, answering their questions, and addressing their concerns may be a key to ensuring consumer trust and advancing EHR implementation and health information exchange activities. Privacy officers, security officers, and HIM professionals will be important partners in this process. AHIMA believes that the time is right for an open dialogue about the value of privacy and security at both the national and organizational levels.

As regulations continue to come out through 2010 (ARRA, Red Flags Rule, and others), it is crucial for HIM professionals to prepare, implement, and maintain the privacy and security functions within their organizations. HIM professionals will continue to be challenged to keep abreast of new regulations while continuing to ensure privacy and security compliance.

AHIMA Resources

In order to prepare our membership to continue to enhance their privacy and security leadership skills, AHIMA has developed a host of practice briefs that support new graduates, HIM managers and directors, as well as the most seasoned privacy officer. These practice briefs will be updated throughout 2010 to provide AHIMA members with the most current resources on protecting privacy, security, and confidentiality. Visit the AHIMA HIM Body of Knowledge today to view and download the many practices briefs available for up-to-date information for privacy, security, and confidentiality resources at www.ahima.org. Please note that logging in is required using your AHIMA member number.

- Electronic Signature, Attestation, and Authorship (updated)
- Sanction Guidelines for Privacy and Security Breaches
- Redisclosure of Patient Health Information (updated)
- Mitigating Medical Identity Theft
- Defining and Disclosing the Designated Record Set and the Legal Health Record
- Health Data Access, Use, and Control
- PHRs and Physician Practices
- Privacy and Security in Health Information Exchange
- Facsimile Transmission of Health Information (updated)
- Identity Theft and Fraud—The Impact on HIM Operations
- Using the SSN as a Patient Identifier
- Homeland Security and HIM
- Securing Wireless Technology for Healthcare
- A HIPAA Security Overview
- Release of Information Reimbursement Laws and Regulations
- The 10 Security Domains
- Security Audits (updated)
- Protecting Patient Information after a Facility Closure (updated)
- Complete Medical Record in a Hybrid EHR Environment. Part I: Managing the Transition
- Complete Medical Record in a Hybrid EHR Environment. Part II: Managing Access And Disclosure
- Complete Medical Record in a Hybrid EHR Environment. Part III: Authorship of and Printing the Health Record
- HIPAA Privacy and Security Training (updated)
- Information Security—An Overview
- Protecting Patient Confidentiality in Healthcare Education Programs
- Provider-Patient Email Security
- Portable Computer Security (updated)
- Transfer of Patient Health Information Across the Continuum (updated)
- Understanding the Minimum Necessary Standard (updated)
- Regulations Governing Research
- Defining the Designated Record Set
- Notices of Privacy Practices
- Laws and Regulations Governing the Disclosure of Health Information (updated)
- Consent for Uses and Disclosures of Information (updated)
- Required Content for Authorizations to Disclose (updated)
- Release of Information for Marketing or Fund-raising Purposes (updated)
- E-mail as a Provider-Patient Electronic Communication Medium and its Impact on the Electronic Health Record
- Implementing the Minimum Necessary Standard
- Preemption of the HIPAA Privacy Rule
- Accounting and Tracking Disclosures of Protected Health Information
- HIPAA Privacy Checklist
- Security Risk Analysis and Management: An Overview
- Patient Photography, Videotaping and Other Imaging (updated)
- Patient Anonymity (updated)
- Patient Access and Amendment to Health Records
- Information Security—A Checklist for Healthcare Professionals
- Managing Health Information Relating to Infection with HIV

View all privacy, security, and confidentiality practice briefs.
Get A Sneak Peak at AHIMA’s Expanded Student Recruitment Resources

Demand is on the rise for all levels of education and certification in HIM. There are approximately 12,000 to 50,000 new jobs anticipated by 2017, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics cites medical records/health information technicians as one of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the US.

To aid the industry in recruiting the next generation of HIM professionals, AHIMA is redesigning HiCareers.com in early July to be an interactive, one-stop-shop for anyone looking to learn about careers in health information. Meant for students and professionals alike, the new site will highlight the benefits of starting a career in health information while also providing industry updates and career advice to those working in HI-related jobs.

A New Look for HiCareers.com

AHIMA conducted a focus group and online survey to learn more about why members and students are choosing to work in HIM. The survey revealed that most professionals and students chose a career in HIM because they wanted to work in a growing health-related field.

The new logo was designed to illustrate the link between healthcare and health information, combining the “i” of information with the star of life—a universal symbol of care. The new logo aims to convey the message that health information professionals care for healthcare consumers when caring for their health information.

Site Features

New functionality on HiCareers.com will help site visitors navigate their options for preparing for, or advancing, a career in health information.

In the new “Ask the Expert/Ask the Student” section, HIM professionals and students will blog about concerns and questions asked most frequently by site visitors. In addition to advice columns, industry experts will share tips and trends in the profession, while HIM students blog about day-to-day experiences from classrooms and internships.

Site visitors may also submit their own questions to bloggers for consideration in future posts. Commenting and sharing capabilities will also allow users to have discussions with bloggers and site visitors on opportunities and challenges facing professionals of all levels.

New video profiles will feature students and HI professionals sharing personal stories and their reasons for choosing a career in health information management. The clips will convey a true range of job settings and careers available in the industry.

If you have a unique career in health information and want to share your story, contact AHIMA’s member communications manager Allison Vance to schedule an interview.

Tools for Career Fairs

In addition to the new Web site, AHIMA has developed a toolkit for members to use at career fairs and other recruitment events. The kit includes a PowerPoint presentation on the profession, links to video profiles, and our latest posters and fliers available for students. The kit will be updated as new resources become available.

All AHIMA-approved coding or CAHIIM-accredited HIM program directors can access other student recruitment materials through a third-party vendor, Standard Register. Some marketing materials are available for free, while others have a minimal cost associated with them. It is a great resource to utilize for all your upcoming events. For more information, or to get started, please complete the registration form on our Web site under “Faculty Resources.” For programs that do not require approval or accreditation, please call AHIMA Customer Relations at (800) 335-5535 or e-mail to request materials.

You may also access student recruitment materials by visiting:

• The Student Community of Practice
• The AHIMA.org “Careers in HIM” page
• The AHIMA careers Facebook page and by viewing the career fair materials box.
AHIMA Site Adds Usability to Resource Browsing

The new www.ahima.org, launched on May 17, comes with not only a whole new look, but new capabilities as well. Visitors to the site can expect easier navigation, access to additional resources, and even a few brand new features to improve their experience.

Outline of New Features

The most notable feature is the event calendar. The site has the ability to view a calendar of upcoming events, or search for the events by name, date, and type. Additional filters for learning category make locating a specific event or event topic extremely fast and simple. Even past events are available to view for informational purposes, with the addition of another filter. The calendar also informs users of any featured events and allows them quick access to more information or registration.

Organization has been taken to a new level on the site, with a map to easily locate AHIMA state associations, as well as organizational charts for easy access to volunteer committees and affiliated entities. Users are only one click away from a dedicated window giving information on a committee, contact information for the committee liaisons, and even an application to volunteer.

The AHIMA homepage contains a self-scrolling toolbar, giving users updates as they browse for particular pages. Tabbed browsing within the pages makes information readily available without excessive scrolling. Newer, multi-leveled menus allow for more one-click access to pages throughout the site, and a quick links menu from the homepage provides instant access to an HIM topic of your choosing. Every facet has been designed with the user in mind to place a wealth of information at your fingertips.

These features and more are currently available, providing quick and easy access to all AHIMA’s health information resources. Visit www.ahima.org to take advantage of all the site has to offer and an effective, efficient experience.

Register Now for the 2010 AHIMA Convention and Exhibit

Plan now to join us September 25–30 at the Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando, FL. In the last year alone ARRA, meaningful use, 5010, ICD-10-CM/PCS, the Red Flags Rule, and RAC audits arrived. More changes are coming and the opportunities for advancement are endless. There’s much to learn, plenty to prepare for, and a lot to be excited about. Now you need a place to make sense of it all—the AHIMA Convention and Exhibit is that place. Here is a preview of some of the prime time highlights at the upcoming Convention.

The Legal EHR in Practice—Standards and Courts Converge

The time for talking about the legal EHR has ended—action is critical as the courts take up important HIM and EHR issues. This session highlights important functionality from the HL7 records management and evidentiary support standard and relates it to real-life challenges and issues facing attorneys litigating cases involving EHRs.

Turning Regulatory Compliance Initiatives into Strategic Advantages

The perfect storm is brewing with the ARRA/HITECH, HIPAA-5010, ICD-10, and healthcare reform initiatives, portions of which are already in effect. Convergence will occur in 2011 to 2013. This session brings awareness of how these four enormous initiatives are interrelated and why healthcare organizations should not plan separately to meet the various compliance dates.

HIE Panel: How States are Shaping Health Information Exchange Policy and Solutions

State HIE leaders will describe the plan for implementing HIE entities and share perspectives and personal experiences about the leadership, policy, and technology challenges. Federal grants are supporting planning and implementation, but what is the model for sustainability and how will government and private sector work together to serve the public good? This moderated panel will spotlight critical issues and address how HIM professionals can contribute.

This year’s convention offers five days of HIM hot topics, informative education, networking, and exhibits. Join your peers for a week of global transformation and historic opportunities, all beneath the Florida sun. For more information, contact AHIMA by phone at (800) 335-5535, via e-mail, or online. Take advantage of early bird rates through September 1. See you in September.
Members Use New CoP to Share, Connect

The new Communities of Practice (CoP) opened March 2 and within the first two months over 7,700 unique users logged into the system. Though there was an initial learning curve, members are familiarizing themselves with the new functionality and utilizing the new technology to find and reference material. Tinya Lee, CCS, said, “The new CoP looks great! I’m loving this new look and it’s good to finally see it updated. Way to go AHIMA!”

Members Learning Together

Discussions via the new topic format are appearing. Members seeking advice, suggesting functionality updates, or celebrating a success all appear. A new student member asked, “What are the benefits of being an AHIMA community member?” Four members responded including Vicki Delgado, RHIT, who described the benefits of the CoP. “The CoP is a huge resource. There is a community for students, communities to help with your current education and for preparing for credentialing exams, as well as communities for almost every HIM practice area.”

Additionally, there are coding-related, leadership, and cancer registry communities. Also, beneficial to any member is access to their state’s community. A state community provides information on happenings within a Component State Association. “You can join any public community and post questions as topics. Members with more experience or a different method in dealing with the issue can provide you some information,” Delgado said.

Keeping Up With the Latest CoP News

To view the newest information, the CoP opens directly to your Personal Page and the “What’s New” section. These are the top-100 topics in the communities you belong too. You can select “What’s Popular” and view the top-100 most popular topics in the public communities. Judy Bielby, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CPHQ, said she likes this new feature. “It is easier to check out what’s new and popular instead of going to each community. There are some communities that I make a point to check out but I also glance at what’s new and what’s popular before going into a particular community.” Check out this feature or go directly into your communities with the “My Communities” drop down on the right side of the page. Visit the CoP today to see all the changes for yourself. Visit www.ahima.org and click on myAHIMA. Enter your AHIMA member ID number and password and then click on the Communities of Practice link in myAHIMA.

CSA Core Service Achievement Award

California Promotes Accredited HIM Programs through Academics Committee

The California Health Information Association (CHIA) received the Support for Local Accredited HIM Education Programs CSA Core Service Achievement award for 2009. CHIA established an academics committee to maintain communication between CHIA, existing, and potential HIA and HIT programs in California. Priorities to accomplish include: a RHIA/RHIT exam fee reimbursement program to encourage and provide incentives for RHIT and RHIA students to take their exam as soon as possible after graduation; an educator exhibitor booth at the CHIA convention with educational sessions focused specifically toward topics of interest for HIM educators and students; program and site supervisor recognition; a CHIA sponsored HIA/HIT program grant; and an annual silent auction to support student scholarships and program grants. This comprehensive program has supported the HIM programs in California.
AHIMA Certified Coding Associate Program Earns NCCA Accreditation

In May, AHIMA announced that it has been granted accreditation for its Certified Coding Associate (CCA) program for a period of five years through April 2015 from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accreditation body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. The CCA is the first HIM credential worldwide to be accredited by NCCA. AHIMA joins an elite group of more than 100 organizations representing over 200 programs that have received and maintained NCCA accreditation.

The CCA, an entry-level credential, distinguishes coders by exhibiting commitment and demonstrating coding capabilities. The CCA designation has been a nationally accepted standard of achievement in the health information management field since 2002. More than 8,000 people have attained the CCA certification since its inception.

“Achieving formal recognition by a third party through accreditation is the ultimate seal of approval, establishing AHIMA, through its Commission on Certification’s practices and processes, as the definitive gold standard,” said Mike Niederpruem, MS, CAE, AHIMA vice president of certifications. “Being the first NCCA-accredited coding certification program worldwide only occurs once and further validates AHIMA’s commitment to be the professional community that improves healthcare by advancing best practices and standards for HIM and the trusted source for education, research, and professional credentialing.” Read the press release.

Call for Volunteers for AHIMA Committee, Task Force Appointments

Getting involved in your professional association benefits both you and your profession. Join the many members who provide their time and expertise to AHIMA by volunteering for a committee, council, or task force.

Volunteer Spirit
Pamela J. Lail, RHIA, CPHM, said, “The spirit of volunteerism is what keeps our association fresh, relevant, and dynamic so we can continue to offer programs, assistance, and services to AHIMA members that they can actually use.” You can join Lail in volunteering by completing an online Application to Serve.

Outlining the Process
Most AHIMA appointments are made on an annual basis by the AHIMA President-elect and may have one year or multiple-year terms. These appointments are generally made in the late summer for the next calendar year.

The names of volunteers that are not appointed to committees or task forces during a given year are kept on file for future opportunities and appointments. Applications are accepted year-round, but complete one before July 30 to be considered for the 2011 appointments.

Feedback from Volunteers
We spoke with a few volunteers who shared how contributing to the association has impacted their professional lives.

Dana McWay, RHIA, JD, serves on the Professional Ethics Committee and previously served on the Committee for Professional Development and the Triumph Award Committee. McWay said, “I contribute to advancing the AHIMA organization through volunteer work and in return I gain the opportunity to learn more about AHIMA operations and network with my peers.”

Nancy A. Davis, RHIA, has served on numerous committees and continues to find her volunteer activities personally and professionally rewarding and provide a means to continue to enhance her knowledge and experience.

Davis said, “I truly believe that my continued success in this field has been due to the opportunities I have had to advance myself through volunteer activities at the national and state level. Additionally, it has been and remains fun.”

Tinya Lee, CCS, volunteers as a way to give back to the association. “There have been so many times throughout my career that I do not know what I would have done if I had not had AHIMA as a resource. I felt it was the right thing to try and give something back.”

Consider giving back to your association as well as reaping the awards of volunteering. Complete an Application to Serve today.
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Jennifer Hornung Garvin, PhD, RHIA, CPHQ, CCS, CTR, FAHIMA
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James S. Kennedy, MD, CCS
AHIMA

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**AHIMA Academy for ICD-10:**
Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding

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August 18–20, 2010 | Swissotel Chicago | Chicago, IL
September 30–October 2, 2010 | Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center | Orlando, FL
November 18–20, 2010 | Denver Airport Marriott | Denver, CO

A Roadmap for Health IT in Long-Term Care to help coding professionals become proficient in the ICD-10-CM/PCS coding systems and prepare them to train other coding professionals. The academy includes a combination of two self-paced, online courses and three days of face-to-face training (the online courses provide basic training in ICD-10-CM/PCS and must be completed prior to the face-to-face workshop). Attendees can expect intensive, hands-on coding instruction:

- Comprehend the extensive changes to the classification systems
- Apply ICD-10-CM/PCS definitions, conventions, and guidelines to determine correct code assignment for diagnoses and procedures
- Learn how to train coding professionals in ICD-10-CM/PCS
- Apply knowledge of ICD-10-PCS coding principles by accurately assigning all root operations
- Apply ICD-10-CM/PCS codes to intermediate and advanced case scenarios
- Understand the importance of anatomy and physiology as it relates to ICD-10-PCS

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Fundamentals of General Equivalence Mapping (GEM)

November 10, 2010 | Virtual Meeting

As the healthcare industry continues to prepare for the transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS, data consistency grows increasingly important. The General Equivalence Mappings (GEM) created by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) are available to assist with the translation of legacy data between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS. This virtual meeting will review how the GEM facilitates the management of coded data. Prepare yourself and your workplace for this important step.

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- **ICD-10-PCS: Getting to the Root of the Procedure, Part 1**
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• Challenges of Compliance and Ethical Coding in Physician Practices
• Developing a Query Process for the Physician Practice or Home Health Agency
• E-mail in the Official Health Record
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• Establishing Productivity Benchmarks
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• Quality Documentation within Physician Practices

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9
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coding Management
Develop coding leadership skills by learning how to create coding process compliance plans, establish productivity benchmarks, understand the revenue cycle, and apply data management principles to the coding process.

Price: $290, Member Price: $240
Earn 6 CEUs

How the Minimum Data Set Affects Long-Term Care Reimbursement
The Minimum Data Set (MDS) is an essential part of a long-term care facility; this course provides an overview of its purpose and functionality. In addition, the negative effects of an inaccurate MDS and best practices for MDS completion will be reviewed.

Price: $96, Member Price: $80
Earn 2 CEUs

Medical Coding for Non-coders
This course, in conjunction with the associated book, will provide the student with an understanding of the purpose of coded data and the role it plays in the overall reimbursement system. Topics such as compliance, quality, clinical documentation improvement, and ethics will also be addressed.

Price: $96, Member Price: $80
Earn 2 CEUs

Coding Overview
Courses and Assessments
Coding a little rusty? Need to evaluate or refresh your understanding of broader coding issues? Our popular Coding Overview courses provide a brush-up, while the related assessments reveal what knowledge has and hasn’t been forgotten. There are four topics to choose from and you can purchase three as a group or all four separately.

• Using ICD-9-CM
• Using HCPCS/CPT
• Reimbursement
• New! Clinical Concepts for Coders

Assessment Price: $18, Member Price: $15. Course pricing varies.
Earn up to 13 CEUs!
Visit www.ahima.org/ContinuingEd/Campus for details.

ICD-10 Overview
Complete the entire three-course program, or select individual courses. See individual course descriptions, below.

Program consists of three courses:
• ICD-10-CM Overview: Deciphering the Code
• ICD-10-PCS Overview: Deciphering the Code
• ICD-10 Overview: Mortality Reporting

Full Program—Price: $480, Member Price: $400
Each Course—Price: $195, Member Price: $160
Earn 4 CEUs per course

ICD-10-CM Overview: Deciphering the Code
Familiarize yourself with ICD-10-CM’s organization and structure and its similarities and differences with ICD-9-CM. You’ll also cover chapter specification modifications, including general coding conventions and guidelines.

ICD-10-PCS Overview: Deciphering the Code
Gain a greater understanding of ICD-10-PCS’s organization and structure, and explore the history of the development of this classification system. All 16 sections of ICD-10-PCS, the system’s characters and values, and its coding conventions and guidelines will be covered.

ICD-10 Overview: Mortality Reporting
Starting in 1999, the US began using ICD-10 to code and classify mortality data from death certificates. While implementation was a multifaceted task, it was considered important in order to ensure the international comparability of health statistics. Familiarize yourself with ICD-10’s organization, structure and coding guidelines; the professionals who assign ICD-10 codes; and how coded information is used at national and international levels.

Expert-Created Training—in Your Home or Office
Online education is the perfect solution for the HIM professional who’s too busy to attend classes, but needs to keep pace with new developments in the industry or learn new job skills. AHIMA online training and assessments offer big savings and relevant knowledge with convenience and flexibility.
AHIMA CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT RESOURCES

Coding Focus

Courses and Assessments

These courses and assessments give you the targeted training you need to tackle areas that are considered the most complex and challenging for coding professionals. Use the courses and assessments together or separately.

- Complete an assessment to identify specific areas where further learning is needed
- Take a course to receive targeted instruction that will fill in knowledge gaps quickly

**Assessment Price:** $18, **Member Price:** $15
**6-Lesson Course Price:** $96, **Member Price:** $80
**12-Lesson Course Price:** $195, **Member Price** $160
**Earn 1 CEU for assessments and between 2 and 4 CEUs for courses!**

*See list below for Coding Focus topics.*

Coding Proficiency

Assessments

The questions in these 60-question assessments mix intermediate and advanced practice levels. Intermediate questions assess how basic coding skills are applied to actual health record content, while advanced questions assess interpretation, analysis, and synthesis of the entire health information data spectrum.

- Hospital Inpatient Coding Assessment
- Hospital Outpatient Coding Assessment
- **NEW!** ICD-10-CM Coding Assessment
- **NEW!** ICD-10-PCS Coding Assessment
- **NEW!** New! ICD-10-CM/PCS CDI Coding Assessment
- Physician Practice Coding Assessment

**Price:** $72, **Member Price:** $60;

**Earn 4 CEUs each!**

CODING FUNDAMENTALS

Coding Basics Program

Build a solid foundation in clinical coding with Coding Basics. This convenient online program accommodates the demands of a busy schedule. Quickly acquire the fundamentals of medical record coding through a self-paced, Web-based format.

Coding Basics consists of 12 courses available in clusters or individually:

- Each cluster contains three courses.
- Up to 15 weeks are allowed to complete each cluster or individual course.
- Program is eligible for up to 41 hours of college credit. (Three to four credits each course)

This online program is perfect for anyone interested in a rewarding career as a medical coder, and for current healthcare professionals who need to know more about accurate assignment of coders.

**Price:** The complete program cost is $2,000, $550 per cluster, or $225 per course. The purchase of supporting textbooks and AHIMA membership is also required. Most registrants are eligible for student membership ($35).

Prior to enrollment in the Coding Basics program, students must complete a college-level human anatomy and physiology course and achieve a passing grade of “C” or better. An official college transcript should be mailed to AHIMA, Distance Education/ Coding Basics, 233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Fl., Chicago, IL 60601.

If an anatomy and physiology course satisfying this prerequisite has not been completed, AHIMA offers the Human Anatomy and Physiology course for $225, which is recommended for four college credits by the American Council on Education.

Upon completion of the Coding Basics program, students should be prepared to sit for the Certified Coding Associate (CCA) certification exam. For details, visit www.ahima.org/certification.

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E-Learning and E-Assessments

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**Earn 1 CEU for assessments and between 2 and 4 CEUs for courses!**

*See list below for Coding Focus topics.*

Coding Focus Topics

For Courses and Assessments

More than 40 topics are available, and more will be added regularly.

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Diagnosis and Treatment Coding
- Ancillary Services Diagnostic Coding
- APC Essentials
- Arthroscopic Musculoskeletal CPT Procedures
- Cardiology Diagnosis Coding
- Cardiology Procedures Coding
- Coding for Hospital Outpatient Diagnostic Radiology Services
- CVA/TIA Diagnosis Coding
- Diabetes Mellitus Coding
- Digestive System Ambulatory CPT Coding
- Digestive System Diagnosis Coding
- DRG Systems Adjusted for Severity
- E/M Coding for Professional Services
- Emergency Room Coding in Hospitals
- **NEW!** Ethical Challenges in Coding Today
- Eye Muscle Procedures Coding
- Fracture Care in Ambulatory Settings
- Guide to Revenue Cycle Management
- **NEW!** Guidelines for Accurate Reporting of Hospital Outpatient Laboratory and Pathology Services
- Home Health Advanced Coding
- Infectious Disease Coding and Reporting in Hospitals
- Injections and Infusions using CPT Codes
- Interventional Radiology Procedures Coding
- Labor and Delivery Complications Coding
- Long-Term Care General Coding Guidelines
- Maternity Services: Diagnosis and Procedure Coding for Physicians
- Modifier Use in Hospitals
- Non-Physician Practitioner Coding
- Oncology Services Coding in Hospitals
- Orthopedics Coding for Hospital Inpatients
- Peripheral Vascular Coding
- Preparing for Regulatory Coding Audits
- Present on Admission (POA) Reporting and Hospital-Acquired Conditions
- Radiation Oncology Coding
- Rehabilitation Coding Guidelines
- Renal Disease Diagnosis Coding
- Reporting HCPCS Level II Codes
- Reporting Psychiatry Services Provided by Physicians
- Respiratory Disorders and Interventions Coding
- Skin Substitutes and Replacement Surgery Using CPT/HCPCS Codes
- Spinal Procedures Using CPT Codes
- Using V Codes Appropriately
- Wound Care and Skin Grafts for ICD-9-CM
- Wound Repairs and CPT Codes

Important Note for Facilities: All these courses and assessments can be packaged in various ways to meet your needs. An AHIMA representative will work with you to customize your options. For more information, contact James Bannen at james.bannen@ahima.org.
AHIMA Certification: Ensuring Professional Expertise

Maximum Career Potential
AHIMA issues credentials in health information management (HIM), coding, health data analysis, and healthcare privacy and security, establishing professional standards of excellence. Credentials are earned through a combination of education, experience, and performance on certification exams. Following initial certification, credentials are maintained through rigorous continuing education, ensuring the highest level of competency for employers and consumers.

Setting the Standard Since 1933 as the Leader in HIM Certification
AHIMA is nationally recognized as the most respected coding credentialing agency. Certification through AHIMA offers validation of professional competency to employers, and delivers increased professional respect, better positions, and even higher salaries for employees.

Assistance Every Step of the Way
STEP 1: Explore Certification
• Request a Certification Candidate Guide: (800) 335-5535
• Download a Certification Candidate Guide: www.ahima.org/certification

The Candidate Guide includes information on applying for, scheduling, and preparing for the certification exam.

STEP 2: Prepare for the Certification Exam
The Exam Resources section of AHIMA’s Web site provides guidance in examination specifications including competencies, content, study resources, and the scoring process.

STEP 3: After the Certification Exam
Once the certification exam is successfully completed, information on certification use in your title and after your name, as well as on credential recertification, will be provided.

Information and Candidate Guides
• www.ahima.org/certification
• info@ahima.org
• (800) 335-5535

Under the direction of the AHIMA Board of Directors, the Commission on Certification ensures quality control and compliance of the Association’s certification programs. The Commission oversees development and administration of all certification programs, considers policy matters, develops long-range strategies, and recommends action to AHIMA’s Board of Directors on specific competency assessment issues.

Build a Foundation for Career Success
Certified Coding Associate (CCA)
The CCA designation, a foundation-level credential, distinguishes coders by exhibiting commitment to the profession and demonstrating coding capabilities. Completing a qualified training program (such as the Coding Basics online program) or on-the-job training along with the CCA provides immediate marketability.

Certified Coding Specialist (CCS)

Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based (CCS-P)
Maximize career opportunities and job satisfaction through the CCS and CCS-P certifications. These credentials recognize capabilities to effectively perform a variety of coding functions. Skills are demonstrated in classifying medical data from patient records, including mastery-level competencies.

Find Your Place Anywhere in Healthcare
Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)
Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)
RHIA- and RHIT-certified professionals lead in compliance, privacy, data quality, security, and decision support. Demand for professionals with these certifications is increasing as technology applications in healthcare continue to evolve.

Broaden Your Horizons in Privacy and Security
Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)
With ARRA’s emphasis on the privacy and security of EHRs, experts are being sought out to ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect health data. CHPS certification ensures advanced competency in designing, implementing, and administering comprehensive privacy protection programs.

Demonstrate Your Expertise in Health Data Analysis
Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA)
The healthcare field is growing increasingly data driven, making health data analysts more valuable than ever. CHDAs possess the knowledge to acquire, manage, analyze, interpret, and transform healthcare data into accurate, consistent, and timely information, balancing the “big picture” strategic vision with day-to-day details. CHDAs also exhibit broad organizational knowledge and the ability to communicate with individuals and groups at multiple levels, both internally and externally.

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ICD-10

Preparation Is the Key to Success

Plan Now for What’s Next

The implementation of ICD-10-CM/PCS in America is anticipated to improve the capture of health information and bring the United States in step with coding systems worldwide. AHIMA offers a variety of resources to help in your transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS.

For additional ICD-10-CM/PCS information and resources, please visit www.ahima.org/ICD10.