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## THIS WEEK'S TOP INDUSTRY & AHIMA NEWS

### EXPERTS: PATIENT SAFETY AND ERROR RATES ARE STAGNATING

At a Senate hearing July 17 convened by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) to bring more awareness to the incidence of preventable medical mistakes, patient safety advocates called for more regulatory and operational oversight to curb medical mistakes. Sanders referred to a 2013 study that concluded that as many as 400,000 premature deaths a year are associated with preventable harm, while a Harvard School of Public Health professor testified that US hospital patients are no safer today than they were in 1999 when the Institute of Medicine released its "To Err is Human" report.

[Access a recording of the hearing](#). Or [read more](#) at the *Journal of AHIMA* website.

### AHIMA SEEKS TO UPDATE OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics recently requested recommendations to the [2010 Standard Occupational Classification \(SOC\) Principles](#), which is used by employers to set salary scales, to set organization leadership structure, by students considering career training, by job seekers, and to reflect the current occupational structure of the US. Responses are intended for the retention of the guidelines and the structures; the correction, change, or combination of selected occupations; and inclusion of new occupations. Revisions are projected for completion by the end of 2016 and released to begin use in reference year 2018.

AHIMA and the AHIMA Foundation provided a [response with recommendations](#) on proposed revisions and modifications, including:

- Update to the Medical Record & Health Information Technician SOC 29-2071
- Support for a [new proposed](#) Health Informatics Practitioner occupation

The proposal for a Health Informatics Practitioner was developed as a collaborative effort initiated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Health IT Policy Committee, Certification and Adoption Workgroup, Workforce Sub-group and [included groups](#) employing, representing, or educating the workforce in the health informatics occupation.

[View the recommendations.](#)



Nominations for the 2014 Roundtable Achievement in Coding Excellence (RACE) Awards are due **August 15**. [Information and the nomination form](#) are in the State Leaders and House of Delegates community on Engage.

Advertisement

**AOW**  
[ACRONYM  
OF THE WEEK]

## UPCOMING WEBINAR TO FOCUS ON INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

A free AHIMA webinar August 14 at 2 p.m. will discuss findings from the first benchmarking survey on the state of information governance (IG) practices in healthcare, key recommendations based on analysis of results, and mark key components of the IG work plan that are completed, underway, and planned for the remainder of 2014 and for 2015. The webinar will be conducted by Deborah Green, MBA, RHIA, AHIMA's EVP and COO and leader of IG initiatives. To attend, [pre-register online](#). If you haven't already, be sure to download AHIMA's benchmarking [IG whitepaper](#) before the webinar.

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## GATHERING DATA FROM PATIENTS FOR POPULATION HEALTH

Monitoring devices that track health data such as heart rate, blood pressure, and blood sugar levels have been praised for involving patients more in improving their own health, but they may also help improve population health, say researchers at Duke University in this month's policy journal *Health Affairs*.

For use in comparative effectiveness studies designed to assess which therapies work best in routine clinical practice, researchers found "the key to high-quality patient-generated data is to have immediate and actionable data so that patients experience the importance of the data for their own care as well as research purposes." [Read additional analysis by Modern Healthcare](#) or access the [study abstract](#).

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## THE NIH LAUNCHES A PLAN TO MINE BIG RESEARCH DATA

An article published online in *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* discusses a National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiative to better mine the vast and quickly-increasing amounts of data generated by research. A first step in that plan is development of a Data Discovery Index that will "enable advanced approaches to search, integrate, and facilitate visualization of data" and link data to associated publications to enhance discovery and facilitate better understanding.

A significant challenge, they say, is gaining value from data captured by electronic health records and by patients' personal devices while maintaining consent and patient privacy. [Read the full article](#).

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## GET INVOLVED

### MEET THE 2014 CANDIDATES



The ballot candidates in the 2014 AHIMA Election are available for discussion in [Engage](#) through August 1. Any member or candidate may initiate discussion in the established threads. Also, get to know the candidates through their [videos](#) at AHIMA on Demand. (Voting will take place at [ivote.ahima.org](http://ivote.ahima.org) August 4-18.)

**A Veterans Administration (VA)** nurse who reported to her lawyer neglectful care at her facility says she was put on suspension and demoted for violating patient privacy protocols. But recent HITECH-HIPAA Omnibus Final Rule protections for healthcare whistleblowers could strengthen the nurse's defense.

Read more on the [Journal of AHIMA](#) website.



Visit AHIMA's [Engage Online Communities](#) for discussions and content on topics important to HIM professionals. Have a membership-related question? Visit the [AHIMA Membership and Business](#) community.

You can also access Engage from our mobile app. Scan the QR code below, or visit [iTunes](#) or the [Google Play](#) store to download.



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## NEW JOBS ON CAREER ASSIST: JOB BANK

[PHYSICIAN INFORMATICIST](#)  
Phoenix, AZ

## APPLY TO THE VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The AHIMA Foundation supports the men and women who have served our country through the Veterans Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to military veterans or their spouses enrolled in or accepted into HIIM programs. The [application](#) closes August 1.

[Faculty - HIT full time - onsite](#)

Anaheim, CA

[Manager, Medical Coding](#)  
Western NY

[Coding Trainer/Educator](#)  
Honolulu, HI

[MANAGER, CODING & CHARGE CAPTURE](#)

West Coast

View [more](#) available positions.

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## SEEKING COMMISSIONERS AT-LARGE



The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) seeks highly qualified nominees for consideration and potential appointment to CCHIIM as at-large commissioners. [Learn how to apply.](#) If you have questions, please contact [heather.rich@ahima.org](mailto:heather.rich@ahima.org).



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## ENTER THE 2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION E-POSTER CONTEST



HIIM students, kick off your health informatics and information management career by showcasing your research skills. The AHIMA Foundation invites students or recently graduated professionals to submit an e-poster to be unveiled at the 2014 AHIMA Convention and Exhibit in San Diego, CA. [Submissions](#) are due August 1.



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## PICTURE HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



[View the entries](#) in the 2014 Bulletin Board Contest showing the importance of leadership, innovation, informatics, public good, and information governance in HIM, including the winning entry from Atlanta Technical College. Thanks to all the schools that participated for showing your talent in this year's contest!

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## EDUCATION & NETWORKING

**CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

**WEBINARS**



[Annual Clinical Coding Meeting](#)

**September 27-28**

**San Diego, CA**

*Register by August 4 and save \$100*

Delve into emerging industry issues and critical topics, and gather vital insight from cutting-edge speakers as they address the changing environment related to ICD-10 and other initiatives driving healthcare today.

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[CDI Summit: Leading the Documentation Journey](#)

**August 4-5**

**Washington, DC**

*Pre-registration savings extended.*

*Register by July 28 and save \$100.*

This summit offers keynote addresses from nationally recognized industry experts; a range of presentations on best practices, innovation, implementation, information governance, and ICD-10-CM/PCS; interactive sessions that showcase real world examples, advance networking opportunities, and provide critical insights to move CDI programs forward. Premier sponsor: 3M; Supporting sponsors: ACDIS, Huff DRG Review, Optum360, Precyse; With support from: CRS Healthcare IT Group, JATA

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[AHIMA's 86th Convention and Exhibit](#)

**September 27-October 2**

**San Diego, CA**

AHIMA's Convention and Exhibit offers the education healthcare professionals need to address changes facing the industry. Attendees will participate in thought-provoking sessions covering meaningful use and EHRs, data analytics, information governance, informatics; audits, technology, and



**Mental Gymnastics with Root Operations**

*Webinars start at 1 p.m. ET and last 60 minutes.*

**July 24**

[Mental Gymnastics with Root Operations: Extirpation and Dilation](#)

**July 29**

[Mental Gymnastics with Root Operations: Resection and Reposition](#)

**July 31**

[Mental Gymnastics with Select Root Operations from the Administration & Imaging Sections of PCS](#)

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Visit our [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) for more upcoming webinars.

ICD-10, among others. View the [preliminary brochure](#) for more details.

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**Upcoming Exam Prep Workshops:**

[Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security \(CHPS\)](#): July 21–23,  
Philadelphia, PA

[Certified Health Data Analyst \(CHDA\)](#):  
July 26–27, Chicago, IL

*Eligibility [requirements](#) apply.*

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Visit our [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) for more upcoming events.

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[AHIMA 233 N. MICHIGAN AVE., 21ST FL., CHICAGO, IL 60601](#)

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