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November/December 2006

by Michelle Mock, MSM, RHIA



Greetings and Happy Fall!

I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to a great holiday season. National Health Information and Technology week is always a hit and I am sure that you celebrated well with lots of goodies and treats for those outstanding professionals that work with us every day. It's always a great time to share with others about our profession.

We are off to a great start with our FHIMA activities and committees. We started off our FHIMA year with our first board meeting in Orlando in September. The board members were given an orientation and reviewed material presented by all committee chairs. It's exciting to hear that our E-task force is diligently working with a web design company to enhance our FHIMA web site. Be on the

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FHIMA CALL FOR ELECTIONS!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

FHIMA Needs Enthusiatic Volunteers LIKE YOU!

Each year, we seek candidates for the following positions:

President-Elect: The position is a 3-year commitment. The president-elect is a member of the Board and works closely with the President and Management Steering Committee. The 2nd year is the President, and the 3rd year, sits on the Board as Past President/Director.

Qualifications: 1) Experience serving as an FHIMA Board Member 2) Active Membership in AHIMA and FHIMA

Director: This is a 2-year commitment. Each year **THREE** Directors are voted on to the Board. They serve as liaisons to Committees and conduct business of the Association.

Qualifications: 1) Experience serving as an FHIMA Committee Chair or officer in a regional association or prior

HIM leadership role in another state. 2) Active Membership in AHIMA and FHIMA.

Delegate to AHIMA: This is a 2-year commitment. The first year the AHIMA Delegate attends the HIMA Annual meeting, and the second year, attends the AHIMA Meeting AND sits on the Board as Chief Delegate.

Qualifications: 1) FHIMA Board or Committee Chair experience. 2) Served as a delegate to FHIMA House of Delegates 3) Active Membership in AHIMA and FHIMA.

*FHIMA Board members have registration fees waived to the annual meeting

[Click here to obtain the 2007 Nominations Form](#)

For more information, please contact:
Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS
FHIMA Nominations Chair
(407) 841-6230
barbaraf@fha.org

**Voting will take place electronically in the Spring.
Watch for emails and postcard indicating when
FHIMA polls are open!**

SERVICE AWARDS

ATTENTION: All FHIMA Members

Nominations are now open for the following awards:

- Distinguished Member
- Distinguished Service (FHIMA Member or Non-member)
- Literary
- Outstanding Student
- Outstanding New Professional
- Outstanding Professional (Practitioner or educator)

We have many deserving members. Please review the criteria and submit your nomination to:

Lori Eytel Langley, RHIA
5155 Sand Dollar Lane
Naples, FL 34103
(w) 239-430-0068 ext.12
(F) 239-643-0098
lori@med-scribe.com

Deadline for receipt of nominations is March 17, 2007.

Please Note: As per 2000-2001 policy and procedures **nominees will be contacted to provide supporting information to the committee.

Nomination Form - Service Awards



Distinguished Member



Outstanding Student



Distinguished Service



Outstanding New Professional



Literary Award



Outstanding Professional

Click Here For The [Service Awards Nomination Form](#)

Click Here For The [Service Awards Criteria](#)

2006 FHIMA SCHOLARSHIPS INFORMATION



Florida Health Information Management Association is pleased to announce a continued support of individuals pursuing Health Information Management careers. FHIMA has again voted to provide scholarships this year to students enrolled in both undergraduate and graduate studies related to the Health Information Management field.

As in years past, scholarships will be awarded to FHIMA members to defray the cost of a Health Information Management related education. Awards will be presented at the Membership Luncheon during the 2007 Annual Convention. Scholarship recipients are strongly encouraged to be present at the Annual Convention Membership Luncheon to accept the award.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Your completed scholarship application and required attachments must be received by the FHIMA Scholarship Chairperson no later than published deadline.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be presently enrolled in one of the following program

Health Information Management Program.

Health Information Technology Program.

Graduate level degree seeking program relevant to H.I.M. (Graduate applicants must be either an RHIA or RHIT and have a bachelor's degree)

Current membership in AHIMA/FHIMA .

An individual is only eligible to win one scholarship for each category.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2007

Mail Applications & Attachments To:

Gwen Clippard, MBA, RHIA
FHIMA Scholarship Chairperson – 2007
6919 Greenhill Place, Tampa, FL 33617
Email: Gwen.Clippard@Baycare.org
Ph: 813-872-2992

Click Here For The [FHIMA Scholarship Application and Criteria](#)

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION:

FHIMA utilizes a point system to evaluate scholarship applicants. Scholarship Committee members will review the applications for the following criteria:



Properly completed application -- with attachments present



Scholastic ability -- official transcripts will be reviewed



Leadership ability -- the resume and/or other documents will be reviewed. The following areas will be considered: awards/honors, previous and current employment (if any), school activities, volunteer work etc...



Potential contribution to the profession -- the essay titled "How I Plan to Achieve My Long Range Professional/Career Goals" (undergraduates) or career objectives (graduate) will be reviewed.



Professionalism – supporting letters and professional organization membership

FHIMA 2007 Convention! Mark your Calendars!

In 2007 our Annual Convention will be held **June 25-28, 2007.**

We will be at the brand-new Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando! Watch future editions and emails for FHIMA 2007 Convention details!



GET THE ALL NEW 2006 Medical/Legal Guide to Health Care Records in Florida!

FHIMA Medical Legal Guide 2006 Version is now available!

The new Medical/Legal Guide to Health Care Records in Florida is now available and ready for purchase. The Guide includes a CD and Notebook set for \$295.00 plus \$10.00 Shipping and Handling. Students enrolled full-time in an accredited HIT/HIM program may purchase the guide for \$65.00 plus \$10.00 Shipping and Handling.

The Guide has been reviewed, revised and updated! Order yours today!

[Click here for the 2006 Medical/Legal Guide Order Form!](#)

look out for the new and improved FHIMA website coming soon to a computer near you!

Following our Board meeting the next couple of days in Orlando were spent at our annual leadership conference. This meeting is designed for our regional leaders, President and President-Elect. This always proves to be an excellent way to share regional ideas with each other and is always lots of fun. Stacie Buck, FHIMA President-Elect did an excellent job with the agenda and the time spent was both motivational and educational. One of the many highlights was a presentation of a video marking the end of our time at the Gaylord Palms done by Elizabeth Whitmer and the Fire Committee.

In October your FHIMA delegates, Michelle Mock, Barbara Flynn, Holly Woemmel, Karla Phillipou, and Carolyn Glavan were off to Denver Colorado for the House of Delegates. As you can imagine the "hot topic" was inclusive membership. It was very interesting hearing the different perspectives on this, but all in all the motion was approved and passed the House of Delegates. You can read a recap of the AHIMA House of Delegates in Karla Philipou's article.

With the year end fast approaching, take time to reflect on the many accomplishments that you have made both personally and professionally and remember to stop and pat yourself on the back along the way for a job well done!!



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Report from the 2006 AHIMA House of Delegates - Denver, Colorado

by Karla Philippou, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, CPC

INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP IS ADOPTED BY
AHIMA HOD

Inclusive membership was adopted by the AHIMA house on Sunday, October 8, 2006 by a very close margin of 143 to 70. Since a 2/3 vote is required to pass the amendment, just a single additional "no" would have changed the outcome. The amendment was discussed online in the CoPs and in the Issue Forums prior to the vote. Delegates had an opportunity to debate the pros and cons of inclusive membership. Some states split their delegates' votes according to their membership response. All five Florida delegates voted against the amendment as was decided at the FHIMA HOD in July. An amendment requiring the AHIMA President, President-elect, and Past-

president be credentialed also passed.

The change removes the requirement that active members hold an AHIMA certification in good standing. The bylaw also requires the majority of the Board of Directors to be AHIMA-approved credential holders, and eliminates the "associate" membership category for component state associations.

In other action items, the House approved a resolution proposed by the HER Practice Council. The "Resolution on the Legal Health Record" was written to facilitate a single-source legal health record and eliminate duplication of records in multiple formats to meet legal requirements.

The House also approved a revision to the Standards for Maintenance of Continuing Education Units in Certification. The revision, proposed by the Council on Certification, consolidates the Certified in Healthcare Privacy (CHP) and the Certified in Healthcare Security (CHS) credentials into one credential, Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS). AHIMA will continue to provide CE maintenance for all three credentials. The CHS credential had previously been offered through the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

The delegates spent the morning and early afternoon in issue forums. These are groups that discuss specific issues presented by AHIMA and moderated by AHIMA board and staff members. The groups brainstorm and relate both positive and negative experiences centered on the issue. The group discussion issues included: the future of the House of Delegates; building alliance activities; preparation of new roles in technology; promotion and marketing of the profession and credentials; recruitment of members and students; and the work force shortage, especially in coding, transcription, and registrars.

Several of these issue forums are interrelated. Recruitment of members and students is certainly related to promoting and marketing of the profession and credentials, and the work force shortage. Through promotion and marketing of the profession, more students and members will be attracted, which will lead to a greater work force in those areas where shortages currently exist. One delegate even proposed the use of television commercials to market the profession. Of course, without the encouragement and mentoring of students and new professionals, none of these goals can be realized.

AHIMA also discussed its strategic plan, the need for member input, finding out those ways that members benefit from the association, and how the association can improve member benefits and build a stronger organization through alliances at state and local levels.

Key to accomplishing these goals is maintaining a presence in health information exchange (HIE) and the development of the electronic health record (EHR). The goals of AHIMA are to assist CSAs in developing these alliances, and to promote industry standards through establishing alliances with other stakeholders in these arenas.

I encourage you to actively participate at the local, regional, state, and national levels. The rewards are a sense of accomplishment, and a respect for the dedication and hard work of your peers. Next year in Philadelphia!

Elegance, Excellence, A Great Force in the HIM Community: A Tribute to Charlotte Stockton

By: Dwan Thomas Flowers, MBA, RHIA, CCS

As many may be aware, Charlotte Stockton departed this life on October 18, 2006. Although the news was painfully shocking, I will take this opportunity to pay tribute to Charlotte and what she means to me as well as the HIM community. Charlotte was elegantly regal in her affairs, and more importantly, she displayed true excellence as a human being, an admirable feat which few will be able to claim.

Charlotte Stockton had long been an avid supporter of the HIM profession. In 1997, she opened two HIM-related businesses, STAT Solutions, Inc., primarily a coding resource company, and Professional Outsourcing, Inc., a release of information company. Over the years, she has vehemently contributed to FHIMA via membership and sponsorship of our activities. However, more importantly, through her various business ventures, she developed lasting relationships with various HIM leaders. Both of her companies are designated as Platinum FHIMA Corporate members, and the profession is ever so grateful.

Moreover, Charlotte was one of the most enjoyable and pleasant business partners with which I have worked. Our relationship strengthened as she and I partnered for coding solutions at Mayo Clinic in 2002. Although a strong businesswoman, Charlotte was also a warm, compassionate individual. I believe all who knew her would agree that kindness and goodness were engrained in her soul. She loved everybody and was devoted to our profession, as we each welcomed her into the HIM community in our individual ways.

I am most honored to have experienced friendship with her. Some of the most memorable (and ongoing) experiences that I shared with Charlotte included her

(unsolicited) motherly advice to me about relationships. She sent me articles about strong, powerful, single women and their dating habits. At an NEFHIMA event in March of this year, I recall sitting in a rocking chair next to her during a break. She encouraged me to wait for the one that was made for me. She noted that I could not accept just anybody into my life because I was so "beautifully and perfectly made." She further warned me that dating would not be easy for professional women with high standards. This was, indeed, the last time that I saw her. I am grateful to have shared that humorous moment with her—one powerful, single woman to another. I will always remember her with a smile on her face.

I will deeply miss seeing her at our offerings and events, but she will always be remembered as we continue to strengthen our professional ties to STAT Solutions and Professional Outsourcing, Inc. I encourage her family, friends and acquaintances to be strong for her, as she remained so strong. Although I cannot deny that I will miss her dearly, I cannot be selfishly sorrowful. For now, she is resting peacefully with the One for which she was so "perfectly and beautifully made"...

Editor note: Our deepest condolences to the Stockton Family on behalf of the entire FHIMA membership. Thanks to Dwan for expressing this so eloquently.



Information for a Healthy Nation

by Elizabeth A. Whitmer, RHIT, FAAMT

As a ten-year resident of Southwest Florida, I can now profess, Florida has succumbed to enough hurricanes during the last two seasons to last me a lifetime.

Instead of complaining about our individual hardships during the recuperation period, let's stop and recognize a unity that was created between us all. Take a moment to reflect upon the ancillary of people that provided their time and hard work to help put us back together. Day after day I witnessed convoys of electrical municipality trucks, from as far away as Canada, Texas, just to name a few, heading south spending endless hours restoring our electricity. Red Cross workers, roofers, plumbers, contractors of all kinds, coming to our aid. Let's also look at the plethora of healthcare workers enduring long shifts at Florida hospitals. Physicians', nursing staff, technicians, were

remaining attentive to high demands for our patients' care-both seasonal and permanent residents.

Health information management professionals helped them obtain an often forgotten vital resource, your medical record information. Obtaining your health information from near or afar in order to aid in the quick response for our physicians to make important healthcare decisions about you. Health information is a vital resource to you and the doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals who provide your treatment and care. It is the role of health information management (HIM) professionals to ensure your health record is complete, accurate, and available when needed most. November 6 through 12 is Health Information Management and Technology Week. This annual event recognizes the work of those professionals who manage patient health information.

"As the healthcare industry moves further into the information age, the role of the HIM professional is becoming even more critical," stated American Health Information Management Association President (AHIMA) Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA. "The move from paper to electronic health records will help doctors make important healthcare decisions on a real-time basis, but these decisions will rely on secure access to clear, concise, accurate, and easy-to-understand information." The Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) Executive Director and College Registrar Gail Crook, CCHRA, CHE, agrees and goes on to say "Nationally, data are used for evaluation of outcomes, grouping of data, healthcare planning, manpower planning, monitoring trends, morbidity and mortality reporting, and patient safety—all critical elements in managing healthcare services today."

HIM professionals are responsible for the collection, storage, coding, processing, analysis, interpretation, application, privacy, and sharing of information for a wide range of purposes in healthcare settings. Today, HIM professionals are increasingly performing tasks using emerging technology and helping healthcare professionals' access information they need to help support clinical decision-making, research, financial management and your own health record management. The fast-paced changes in technology have accelerated the demand for HIM professionals. "The goal of the HIM profession is to provide quality information to improve the quality of healthcare received," adds Abdelhak. "HI&T Week is an opportunity to learn more about the role these professionals play in the healthcare system, as well as recognize and celebrate their contributions to patient care, public health, and the bottom line."

The fast-paced changes in technology have accelerated the demand for HIM professionals. The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 49 percent growth in the number of HIM workers by 2010, making HIM one of the nation's fastest –growing health occupations. The Department of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD) in Canada has been approached to define the national shortage of HIM professionals. The field currently offers nearly 40 different work settings ranging from hospitals and physician offices to education institutions and technology companies.

As the President of the Southwest Florida HIM Association, I proudly work to uphold my contribution in a profession I firmly believe in. This is a profession for anyone, like me, that needed a change from the clinical workforce. I must also admit, however, I am also anxious to bid adieu to hurricane season for a while and have football season, the holiday seasons and even golf season restored to normal down here.

HI & T Week is sponsored by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA).

AHIMA is the premier association for health information management (HIM) and allied healthcare professionals. These professionals manage, protect, and utilize complex personal health information for the delivery of quality healthcare to the public. Founded in 1928 to improve the quality of medical records, AHIMA fosters the career growth of its 50,000 members through leadership in advocacy, education, certification, and lifelong learning.

Editor Note: This article appeared online on www.employmentguide.com website. Elizabeth Whitmer has tirelessly written numerous articles for various publications to promote the HIM profession.

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HITSP Delivers Standards to AHIC

Last week, the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) delivered its first set of 30 harmonized standards to the American Health Information Community. The panel was asked to select standards that would be needed for using health IT to carry out three scenarios, or use cases:

- Patient registration and medication history
- Rapid transmissions of data from doctors and emergency rooms to support biosurveillance that would alert officials to a disease outbreak
- Electronic delivery of lab test results to doctors

The standards elicited some controversy, with some in attendance stating that they would not implement the standards until further testing and review. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt accepted the standards and praised HITSP's dedication and work. For more information on the standards and HITSP, visit http://www.ansi.org/standards_activities/standards_boards_panels/hisb/hitsp.aspx?menuid=3.

CMS Announces Three Modified or Altered Systems of Records

As required under the Privacy Act of 1974, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published three notices related to the Common Working File System, the Intermediary Medicare Claims Record, and the Carrier Medicare Claims Record System (71FR64955, 71FR64961, and 71FR64968). The three notices cover name changes, routine data uses, and systems changes necessary to reflect the current Medicare program and its relationships with contractors and grantees. The notice also

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includes a current list of all intermediaries and carriers as well as payment safeguard contractors and CMS regional offices. The announcements appear in the November 6 *Federal Register* at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a061106c.html

US Makes Progress on Recommendations for NHIN

The federal government has made significant strides in fulfilling many of the 14 recommendations put forth last October by the Commission on Systemic Interoperability, according to a report from the National Alliance for Health Information Technology. In the past year, the Department of Health and Human Services has acted on eight of the 14 recommendations. Among the most notable achievements are:

- Regulatory changes to allow hospitals, lab companies, insurers, and others to donate electronic health record technology to doctors and other healthcare providers through exceptions to Stark and antikickback rules
- Implementing a certification process for electronic health record systems that ensures a minimum level of functionality and certifying more than 30 systems so far
- Selecting technical standards that will permit different technology systems to exchange information.

Progress has been more limited in Congress. Although several health information technology bills introduced this year incorporated commission recommendations, none has been enacted bills introduced this year incorporated commission recommendations, none has been enacted into law. To read the report, visit http://www.nahit.org/dl/docs/CSI_progress_one_year_out.pdf.

NCVHS Announces Final 2006 Meeting

The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) will hold its final 2006 full committee meeting November 28–29 in Washington, DC (71FR64526). The agenda for the first day will include updates and status reports on the HHS Data Council, CMS Office of Electronic Systems and Security (HIPAA Transaction Update), Office for Civil Rights (Privacy Update), as well as reports and testimony regarding e-prescribing, national provider identifier implementation, and an application from the Consolidated Health Informatics Initiative on disability information. Second-day activities will include an update the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration, a discussion on International Classifications, and updates from the NCHS and the NCVHS committees and work groups. Additional detail can be found in the November 2 *Federal Register* at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a061102c.html and the NCVHS Web site at <http://ncvhs.hhs.gov/>, which will contain the final agenda as well as agenda for various subcommittees.

Recommendations on Overcoming Nontechnical RHIO Challenges

The First Consulting Group provides recommendations to organizational and policy obstacles in developing regional health information organizations (RHIOs) in its latest paper "Overcoming Ten Non-Technical Challenges of RHIOs." Among the challenges

and solutions outlined are a common vision and purpose, leadership, effective governance, financial feasibility, data sharing, and privacy and security. "An effective governance structure provides the necessary framework for making the many decisions that define and guide the RHIO effort," according to the paper. "One of the lessons about governance is that it should be consistent with the mission and the purpose for pursuing interoperability in the first place (e.g., economies of scale, process leverage)." To read more, go to <http://www.fcg.com/research/research-listing.aspx?rid=316&NoIntro=True>.

Inclusive Membership Communications and Marketing Strategies Task Force Formed

A new Inclusive Membership Communications and Marketing Strategies Task Force has been formed to help provide advice on communicating and marketing AHIMA to new potential members, current members, and former associate members and develop key messages for target audiences. The following members are serving on this task force

- April Robertson, MPA, RHIA, CHP, Board Liaison
- Clark Chaffin, RHIA, CCS
- Reed Gelzer, MD, MPH, CHCC
- Carol Jennings, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA
- Wanda Johnson, RHIT
- LaVonne LaMoureaux, RHIA, CAE
- Alison Nicklas, RHIA, CCS
- Karla Philippou, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, CPC
- Louann Schraffenberger, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P
- Bobbi Tadwalt, RHIT

AHIMA Offers New CHPS Certification Exam

AHIMA will offer a new Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS) certification beginning in April 2007. AHIMA's Certified in Healthcare Privacy (CHP) certification and HIMSS's Certified in Healthcare Security (CHS) certification will be integrated and combined to better serve the privacy and security industry. AHIMA will continue to support all current CHS, CHP, and CHPS credential holders with continuing education and maintenance (CEUs). Applications for the current CHP and CHS will be accepted through December 31, 2006. Testing must be completed by March 31, 2007. Applications for the new CHPS exam will be accepted beginning January 2, 2007. Go to <http://www.ahima.org/certification/> for more information on the new CHPS certification exam.

Home Health Coding November 30

Faculty: Ida K. Blevins, RHIA, and Ann M. Zeisset, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P

Learn the most up-to-date information available for reporting ICD-9-CM codes under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home Health Prospective Payment System, so you can correctly assign diagnostic codes. You'll come away with effective approaches to the new guidelines for using pain codes, reporting

continuing care of fractures and dressing changes. For registration and information, visit

<http://imis.ahima.org/orders/productByType.cfm?t=1>

X12 837 Transaction Usage Survey

Your help is needed in completing a survey on the upcoming HIPAA-adopted X12 837 transaction sets. WEDI and Designated Standard Maintenance Organizations (DSMOs) are soliciting feedback regarding the upcoming changes in order to provide the federal government with an accurate cost benefit analysis in the adoption of X12 837 transaction set under HIPAA version 5010. If your organization is planning on adopting these transaction sets for healthcare claims, take a minute to complete the following survey. Survey comments are due by November 15. For more information on the WEDI survey, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=24802751053>.

ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines Posted

The ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been updated and posted to the National Center for Health Statistics Web site. These guidelines are effective starting November 15. To view or print the guidelines in their entirety, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/ftp/ftpicd9/ftp/ftpicd9.htm#guidelines>.

HHS Designates CCHIT as a Recognized Certification Body

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has designated the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology as a Recognized Certification Body. In August, HHS published two final rules providing an exception to the physician self-referral prohibition (commonly referred to as the Stark law) and a safe harbor under the anti-kickback statute. These provisions allow hospitals, health systems, health plans, and others to donate interoperable electronic health record (EHR) software to physicians and other healthcare practitioners under specified conditions, one of which is that the software must be interoperable. EHR software will be deemed interoperable under both rules if it has been certified within 12 months prior to the donation by a certification body recognized by HHS. For more information, visit <http://www.cchit.org/media/CCHIT+Announces+New+Certified+Electronic+Health+Record+Products.htm>.

Are Application Service Providers Right for Your Physician Practice?

A possible alternative to electronic health record systems, application service providers (ASPs) allow physicians to rent remotely managed products and services that can be accessed via the Internet. The California HealthCare Foundation released a report for physician practices to gauge whether this technology is right for them. "Physician Practices: Are Application Service Providers Right for You?" provides an overview of the ASP alternative, comparing it to traditional software and addressing important considerations and questions for physicians weighing their options. It also considers the future of ASPs and reviews scenarios from six different types of medical practices as a guide

for making appropriate IT decisions. The authors conclude that the ASP model is an increasingly viable choice for small to medium-size practices, particularly those with limited capital and IT resources. To read the report, go to <http://www.chcf.org/documents/ihealth/PhysicianPracticesASPProviders.pdf>.

2007 Call for Nominations

Each year AHIMA's members elect leaders to the Board of Directors, Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM), and the Council on Certification. The nominating committee selects the slate of candidates for the election based on criteria for the elected positions.

As we begin the process of selecting those individuals who will assume office in January 2008, our first appeal is to you. We encourage you to seek one of the AHIMA elected positions or assist the nominating committee by identifying AHIMA members who will provide strong leadership for AHIMA in the years ahead.

The timetable for the 2007 nomination process, titled "Call for Nominations–2007," is available in the AHIMA and State Leaders and HOD Communities of Practice under the Resources section. To learn more about the available positions, read the "Call to Nomination Guide." To nominate yourself or a colleague, fill out the Call for Nomination Form, available on these CoPs. Nominations are due no later than close of business **Wednesday, January 31, 2007**. All nominations must be submitted electronically. Thank you for your time and commitment to AHIMA.