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e-Coastlines

September-October 2008

 Print pdf version

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President's Message



Dwan Thomas Flowers, MBA, RHIA, CCS

S.H.I.N.E.

Support Health Information Networks & Educate

Secure HI Networks & Exchanges

Share H I & Network with Enthusiasm

It is with great sincerity that I share my excitement about writing my first FHIMA President's Message. *Let our light so shine such that all other information management professionals will realize that we are strong, united, well-educated and experienced profession* --Who knew back in 1999, when I first committed these words to paper that they would still have such significance in 2008? This was a time when HIPAA was new, there were only whisperings of HINs, eMR was still risqué and CoP still meant conditions of participation – not Communities of Practice...Now is an excellent time for a status check.

This year, our theme is S.H.I.N.E, and I cannot over-emphasize the significance. It is truly HI time that we SHINE in HIM. We have to Support Health Information Networks and Exchanges, share health information and network with enthusiasm. There is no better time to take our places at the forefront of these activities.

However, with all of the other information management societies surfacing with similar mission statements, we have our share of work to do to ensure that we are invited to the "big table" for decision-making--thus, our theme, **S.H.I.N.E.** If we **share health information & network with enthusiasm**, perhaps we can further our cause. So what else do we need to do to SHINE?

We are off to a good start. FHIMA has made many strides. We have so very many talented people on whom we can depend. I truly believe that our state organization is one that SHINES within AHIMA. We have begun the work toward recruitment via FIRE, which in the absence of anything else, it shines. We won the 2008 AHIMA CSA Core Achievement First Place award for best practices in Support for Local Accredited HIM Education Programs for execution of our formal Mentor Program and other activities related to Bridging the Gap. We have published best practices throughout our state for activities such as Hill Day, which won us the 2005 CSA Core Achievement award for best practices in Legislative & Advocacy, "Campaign Save the Region" as well as have implemented successful annual Student Forums. We have many Award-winning members within our organization. There are so many, many more examples of how FHIMA SHINES, but we still have work to do.

So what else might the acronym SHINE represent? Rest assured that the HI represents Health Information, always. When I think of "**S**", I think:

- **S**upport & Standardize
- Again **H I** (always Health Information)
- **N** for Networks, Networking and Necessary
- **E** for Exchanges, Enthusiasm, Expedient, Electronically

Can we embrace SHINE to **S**upport **H**ealth **I**nformation **N**etworks and **E**xchanges?

Can we **S**hare **H**ealth **I**nformation for **N**ecessary **E**xchanging?

Can we indeed **S**tandardize **H**ealth **I**nformation **N**etworks **E**lectronically?

Are we prepared to **S**tandardize **H**ealth **I**nformation **N**etworks, **E**xpediently?

I believe the beauty of the message is that SHINE can represent many initiatives that are relevant to what we do. However, I challenge each of you to reflect upon the words...As HIM professionals we have to be more *enthusiastic*; it is contagious. More importantly, we have to act *expeditiously*; we must lead with speed. Often times, we are all guilty of having wonderful ideas without *Execution* (another great "E"). We don't take the time to share our knowledge, commit it to paper OR submit it to someone else because we allow the demands of life to get in the way. I believe this is how other professions have quickly decided that they are players in our game! We have the knowledge base; we have the experience—we can do it. We can rise to the occasion such that we are recognized for our talents!

My commitments to you for this term will show that for me, it's always all about the members. Tell me what you need from your organization. Help us to help you develop professionally. Additionally, I intend to expound upon the questions posed during the President-elect campaign question. One related to FHIMA's President's involvement in Advocacy efforts, as well as involvement at the public consumer and legislative levels. My responses, in sum, were that I would advocate for more students enrolling in HIM programs as a first selection, with more mentoring of students and accepting them for practicum

assignments. Additionally, it is paramount to try to influence others within our professional body to do the same.

I committed to enhancing public consumer awareness of their PHI; thus, we have a new myPHR Task Force this year. Finally, at the legislative level, I committed to more involvement in any activity that is affected by or could potentially affect HIM. We need to secure FHIMA membership for as many related workgroups as possible. In essence, we need a seat at the big table!

As I have made commitments for this term, I also need commitments from you! I ask that you hire students--our commitments to our new grads are key to our sustainability. Seek out credentialed members to fill your roles. Make the concerted effort to help others secure credentials so they can SHINE. If you are a student or new grad, I need you to pursue your credentials as soon as possible. You do not realize the impact you could have not only on your own career but also on the profession by doing so. From everyone, I need your enthusiasm to SHINE through. If we want to attract more people to our profession to offset the national shortage, we need to have qualities that out-SHINE other professions. We must act in a manner that others would like to model and represent ourselves in such a professional way that others want to be a part of what we do.

As we begin this term, I am so proud to be a part of something so wonderful, with multiple opportunities as new HIM challenges and initiatives emerge that require our unique attention. Remember, "stars do not struggle to SHINE," and you won't either--after all, this is Florida, the sunshine state. So, I need us (HIM professionals) to unite; we will shine brightly together even as we partner and collaborate with others (such as AAPC, HIMSS). TODAY, I need your commitment to advancement of the science of e-HIM. I ask that you take the opportunity this term to SHINE in your own right and ensure that FHIMA takes lead on doing what it does, naturally!

So when I say, "Let our light so shine (some quotes require no formal referencing—you just know the author), please note that while the "our" is intended as plural, the "light" is single...so, although we individually need to do our parts to SHINE, when we partner, there is one light, one direction and one goal in unity. I look forward to working with each of you shining stars, and I thank you in advance for your commitment to SHINE in 2008-2009.

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FHIMA News

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 FHIMA Board of Directors!

On Tuesday, July 15, 2008, the 2008/2009 Board of Directors were installed at the Annual Membership Luncheon. The new officers are:

President

Dwan Thomas-Flowers, MBA, RHIA, CCS

President-Elect

Kimberly Eichner, MBA, RHIA

Past President/Director

Stacie Buck, RHIA, CCS-P, LHRM, RCC

Directors

Monica Cole, RHIA, CCS

Diana Spaulding, RHIT, CCS

Kelly Wilson, MBA, RHIA, CHP

Lisa Libby, RHIA, CCS

Dean Ritchey, RHIA

Barbara Bermudez, RHIT

Chief Delegate

Lori Langley, RHIA

Executive Director

FHIMA Committee Chairs for 2008/2009

The 2008/2009 FHIMA Committee Chairs are:

Arrangements: Tanya Kuehnast, MA, RHIA
Bridging the Gap: Donna Retallak, RHIT & Gwen Clippard, MBA, RHIA
Credentials: Carnell Hall, DD, MBA/HCM, RHIA
Data Quality: Carla Gaines, MPH, RHIA, CCS
e-Coastlines: Becky Dicus, MHSA, RHIA, LHRM
FIRE: Hertencia Bowe, MSHA, RHIA
Legislative: Kelly McLendon, RHIA & Eudelia "Skip" Thomas, MS, RHIA
Nominating: Michelle Mock, MSM, RHIA
Program: Myra Merillo, RHIT
Scholarship: Angela Rosier, RHIA
Service Awards: Monica Hardy, EdD, RHIA
AHIMA Delegate: Anita Douppnik, RHIA
Advocacy Liaison: Linda Renn, RHIT, CCS, CPC, CPC-H
My PHR Liaison: Julie McCall, RHIT

If you need to contact a committee chair, go to the About FHIMA page and click on "FHIMA Committees and Appointments."

Ready to volunteer with FHIMA?

FHIMA has many opportunities for you to get involved with your professional association!

[Click on this link](#) and let us know what you'd like to do! You'll learn about the various positions and what's involved!

Articles

FHIMA Annual Report

[Click here](#) to view the FHIMA Annual Report

FHIMA HOD 2008 Summary

[Click here](#) for the meeting minutes for the July 14, 2008 FHIMA House of Delegates

[Click here](#) for the FHIMA's 21st House of Delegates Summary

Travel with your PHR

By: Melissa Boyster
AHIMA Member Communications Manager

Many of you know how important it is to keep and maintain a PHR, but do you carry it with you when you're hundreds—or even thousands—of miles away from home? In a medical emergency, time is of the essence. Transferring medical records across states, oceans, and countries is not only difficult, it's sometimes near impossible.

We encourage you to bring your PHR with you whenever and wherever you travel. Whether it's a family vacation, an overnight stay, a business trip, or an international excursion, always leave home prepared.

Please remember to be prepared with your PHR when traveling to AHIMA's October Annual Convention in Seattle. Use this opportunity to train yourself to bring your health information along whenever you leave home.

You've worked to create it, now don't forget it! Set an example for others to show how versatile and useful it can be. Please remember to bring your PHR with you when you travel and encourage your loved ones to do the same.

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FHIMA Rap

FHIMA Rap written for 2008 FHIMA Convention

by Judy Carter
www.judycarter.com

Managers in the hood - better be good
Healthcare is my vocation
Not getting me much appreciation
Always in a crisis situation
No wonder I'm on medication

My pants are tight, my forehead's warm
I can't fill out one more form
I need some air - It's not fair
I need some air - It's not fair

I'm learning new software
Making data easy to share
But this is really deranged
As soon as I learn it, it's gonna change

You send me emails every day
On my work can be no delays
But work is going the pace of a snail
Cause I'm busy answering your stupid Email

Meeting to see why my budget is late
Meeting to see why I can't hit my date
Want to know why I'm not completing
It's because I'm in a stupid meeting!

In medical coding we have to be cool
Some people don't follow rules

Crusin', swearin', stomping the floor
And that's just the doctors

Now, what makes us go berserk
Doctors calling us file clerks
We're sick of this devaluation
So let me say without hesitation

If you want your patients to get medication
Treat us with appreciation
So let me give you an education
We're the goddesses of Health Information

I need some air - It's not fair

Here in the hood of Orlando
I just want to drink Mojitos
Learning ICD-9 coding
Makes me want to do carbo loading

But I'm at the Omni pretending it's a vacation
But all these meetings give me constipation
I'm here to work on my coding career
I rather float the lazy river drinking a beer

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FHIMA 2008 Convention a Success!

The FHIMA 2008 Convention in July was a success! We had 542 registered attendees and three days of educational tracks! The Exhibit hall was sold out! Congratulations to Pamela Carter and Valerie McCleary! The hotel has notified me that these 2 have won a stay at the Omni as a result of a random drawing of hotel evaluations completed by our guests.

Overall, attendees scored the speakers very high as well as the convention facilities. Of course, there is always room for improvement so we will be taking all written comments and suggestion into consideration for our convention in 2009. The FHIMA 2009 Convention will be held July 13-16, 2009 at the Omni Orlando Resort. Mark your calendars!

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AHIMA Update

AHRQ Releases Common Formats for Patient Safety Reporting

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released a set of common definitions and reporting formats for provider organizations that voluntarily report patient safety data to patient safety organizations. Use of the Common Formats Version 0.1 beta set will facilitate the collection and reporting of data, according to the agency, which is a unit of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Patient Safety Act, which authorized reporting of data to patient safety organizations, requires collection of data in a standardized manner when practical. A final federal regulation implementing the act is under review. More information and a link to the Common Formats are in an AHRQ notice published August 29 in the [Federal Register](#).

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CMS Announces 32 Registries Qualify for 2008 PQRI Reporting

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced the 32 registries that have been “qualified” to submit quality data on behalf of their participants for the 2008 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) registry submission option. A list of each registry and their Web site is available as a downloadable document. Go to www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri and click on “**Reporting**” on the left of the PQRI homepage.

Each registry has gone through a thorough vetting process. Eligible professionals interested in registry-based participation for PQRI in 2008 are encouraged to contact the registries directly to determine which registry meets their practice’s needs and collects quality information on measures that are important to the practice.

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2008 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative Conference Call with Q&A Session

CMS will host a conference call on the 2008 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). This toll-free call will take place from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT) on September 18.

This call will provide an update on registry reporting for 2008; information on the e-prescribing measure for 2008 PQRI (measure #125) and proposed measures for 2009 PQRI; incentives for electronic prescribing; 2007 PQRI feedback reports and incentive payments; and a question and answer session.

To register for the call participants must [click here](#). Registration will close at 3:30 p.m. (EDT) on September 17 or when available space has been filled. No exceptions will be made, so please be sure to register prior to this time.

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Free ICD-10 Webcast Available Now

Faculty: Sue Bowman, RHIA, CCS; Mary Beth McCoy Haugen, MS, RHIA; Lynn Kuehn, MS, RHIA, CCS-P, FAHIMA; and Dan Rode, MBA, FHFMA

AHIMA is offering a free, informational, pre-recorded Webcast, “ICD-10 Implementation: What’s Next?” to educate healthcare and HIM professionals on the contents of the notice of proposed rule making (NPRM), our initial interpretation, important dates, impact on the industry, and next steps in the transition. This Webcast is a recorded version of a live event originally broadcast on August 26 and reviews the what and why of an NPRM, who will be affected and how, how ICD-10 differs from ICD-9, benefits of the upgrade to ICD-10, and responding to the NPRM. Please note that no resource book or CEUs are provided with this Webcast. To access the Webcast, [click here](#).

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AHIMA Offers ICD-10 Information Online

Looking for information about ICD-10? AHIMA has developed a special section of our Web site www.ahima.org to provide you with up-to-date information about the regulatory process, advice about implementation, and the latest AHIMA educational products. The new and improved site includes an overview of the value of ICD-10, answers frequently asked questions, explains AHIMA’s advocacy efforts in this area, and is a one-stop resource for links to articles and education. Visit www.ahima.org/icd10/ and add it to your bookmarks, as new information will be added frequently.

HI&T Week Planning Kit Available Now

Mark your calendars for Health Information and Technology Week, November 2-8, sponsored by AHIMA and the Canadian Health Information Management Association. This annual event is a showcase for the thousands of HIM professionals who perform their duties masterfully throughout the year. The theme of this year's celebration is "The Strength of Technology, the Power of Care," which is intended to spread the idea that sound principles are maintained as medical information evolves from the paper to the electronic world. We have prepared a kit to help you plan your week. To access the planning kit online, visit www.ahima.org/hitweek.



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