

# 2013: The Road Ahead: A Big Year Awaits HIM Professionals

Save to myBoK

By Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, chief executive officer

Starting a new year is like starting a long journey. Before I set out, I want to make sure I have a plan. What's the destination? Where's the map? What provisions will we need? How will we get started?

Similar questions came to mind as I read this month's cover story, "[Road Map to 2013](#)." In this article we hear from industry experts on what they expect the journey of 2013 to look like.

Landmarks like ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation and stage 2 of the "meaningful use" EHR Incentive Program are growing closer. But there are also new technological innovations like mobile healthcare to keep the scenery interesting.

Other articles in this month's *Journal* suggest more potential destinations as well. In "[Save the Stamps](#)," Louis Galterio describes how audit-requested medical records are now being sent electronically via the Nationwide Health Information Network. With our electronic expertise, this is a great potential role for HIM professionals to interact with health information exchange.

Robin Bowe describes how one healthcare organization is taking a proactive approach to combat medical identity theft in "[Identity Crisis](#)." Bowe's organization implemented a medical identity theft team to respond to incidents. This included mitigating potential errors in medical records. Perhaps there are some best practices here that could be adopted at your facility? And don't miss our Practice Brief on "[Understanding the HIE Landscape](#)"—a landscape that has already changed dramatically in its first decade of existence.

## Assess Your Strengths...

This issue of the *Journal* reminds me that as HIM professionals, it's our responsibility to keep up with change. If you're an AHIMA member, you're already a step ahead of the curve with access to our many informational and practical resources. Stay engaged with us as we introduce new and improved tools this year to help you navigate the road.

But there's also work to be done on your own. I urge you to take a step back and consider what kinds of knowledge and skills are needed in your workplace and areas of expertise.

Does your knowledge have enough depth? Are there other HIM areas that you need to become familiar with? The profession is broadening with the inclusion of the clinical documentation improvement and revenue cycle, so make sure you are keeping your skills current. Or you might want to reposition yourself in a new area, such as decision support or analytics.

## ...And Set Your Goals

I've gone on record as being a fan of the "Big Audacious Goal." I believe that if you set goals and write them down, you are more likely to realize them. As you plan your journey for the year, consider what you want to do and where you want to be. Think big as you do so, and then write down your goals. It will help you articulate what you really want and help keep that thought at the front of your mind.

AHIMA will be setting goals, too. This month the 2013 Board of Directors starts its own journey as we embark on our strategic planning process. This process is informed by the feedback we get from our members, from the state associations, and from the AHIMA House of Delegates.

Environmental scanning—your reports of developments in the workplace—is invaluable as we plot our course for the future.

It's going to be a great journey. See you on the road!

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