

AHIMA Here to Help with Coding Changes

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A recent story in the Chicago food blog *Eater* detailed some of the ways automation is changing the food industry: from sushi served on a conveyor belt to touch-screen beer orders and “pour your own” wine bars. There are even “automated restaurants” that are essentially vending machines for salads and healthy foods.¹

In this age of perpetual disruptive technology, all professions are facing automation. In healthcare, we’ve already seen it happen with transcription. Now it’s time to talk about coding.

Though recently celebrating many years of being in high demand, coding professionals are not immune to change as healthcare transforms. We are hearing stories of coding departments transitioning to new roles, with some moving out of production coding and into new areas such as analytics.

HIM professionals are not alone in this transition. A recent PwC report notes, “When Gallup surveyed executives, about half of the respondents said that within the next three years, greater data and analytics skills will be required of everyone in operations, finance and accounting, and marketing and sales in their companies.”²

Coders are a critical component of the AHIMA membership. In 2016, AHIMA dedicated more than 65 percent of its total resources to supporting coding professionals. Not only are we actively supporting members currently in coding roles, we are also devoting resources to ensure these members are well positioned for the future.

The good news: coding professionals have great skills; they just need to understand the competencies they must possess to stay relevant professionally.

The articles in this month’s issue focus on some of the latest developments in inpatient coding. In “[Coding Checkup: Determining the New Normal for Coding Accuracy in a Post-ICD-10 World](#),” Mary Butler finds out how use of ICD-10 is going and what metrics are being used to measure performance. The article also touches on the upcoming AHIMA Foundation study on coding productivity and accuracy being planned for later this year.

For many, routine coding audits became common as part of ICD-10 implementation. In “[ICD-10 Coding Audits Reveal Error Trends to Avoid](#),” Debi Primeau and Victoria Hernandez look at some of the trends identified through audits and any insights that might result.

MACRA continues to bring attention to how health information is captured, stored, and used with its emphasis on data quality reporting. In “[Embrace the MIPS Additional Payment Adjustment for Exceptional Performance](#),” Michael Marron-Stearns reviews how Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) payment adjustments are determined and how practices can achieve them.

Finally, in “[HIM Reimagined Outlines Bold New Future for HIM Profession](#),” authors from the HIM Reimagined (HIMR) Task Force outline the goals of HIMR—a white paper setting a framework for transforming the HIM profession by expanding the skill set of HIM professionals to include informatics, information governance, and data analytics. I urge you to read this article and think about what skills you may need.

Take the first step. AHIMA is here to help.

Notes

1. Anderson, Lindsey. “Automation Invasion: High-Tech Self-Service Restaurants and Bars Infiltrate Chicago.” *Eater*. April 4, 2017. <http://chicago.eater.com/2017/4/4/15074410/automation-invasion-high-tech-self-service-restaurants-bars->

[chicago-trend](#).

2. PwC. "Investing in America's Data Science and Analytics Talent." April 2017. www.pwc.com/us/dsa-skills.

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