

# Amid the Chaos a Moment of Reflection

Save to myBoK

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

January is always a time for reflection, and I find this year to be no exception. As poet T.S. Eliot wrote in *Four Quartets*: “For last year’s words belong to last year’s language; and next year’s words await another voice.” Like Eliot, I’m waiting to hear what this year will bring.

To prepare for a new year, it’s good to take a little time at the beginning of the year and give some consideration to what we want to accomplish in the future. This can be hard to do when the phone is ringing, e-mail is buzzing, and your to-do list is growing out of control. A number of HIM professionals and others in healthcare anticipate a particularly busy year as the industry looks ahead to the implementation of ICD-10-CM/PCS in October.

## After ICD-10... What’s Next?

As momentous as the ICD-10 conversion is, it’s important to realize it’s not the end of the road. The industry will adjust and eventually adapt, as it does with every big change. And then... what happens next? That’s the question that interests me.

As you answer the question “what happens next” for your workplace or for your professional growth, [AHIMA’s Strategic Plan](#) may be a useful guide. It acknowledges the importance of imminent challenges like ICD-10, but it also gives us some indication of what’s next.

New trends like population health management, Big Data, and mobile communications are right around the corner. And AHIMA strategic initiatives such as applied informatics and information governance will change the way we work as well as the way we think and talk about our profession.

## The Year Ahead

“The Year Ahead for HIM,” by Mary Butler, distills the opinions of industry experts and observers to review the biggest HIM stories of 2013 and how they will impact healthcare in 2014. Most of the big issues of 2013, like the “meaningful use” EHR Incentive Program, ICD-10, and health information exchange will continue to hold our attention in 2014.

The issue also offers some glimpses of what the future may hold. In “[Scan a Med, Save a Life](#),” Christian Hay describes the GS1 system of standards, well known in the supply chain world, which is working to bring scanning technology to healthcare and which may impact the future of health information.

Dr. Robert Dolin and other authors give an overview of how EHR quality reporting is growing in prominence thanks to meaningful use, offering a history of quality measures as well as a look at what’s next in integrating quality measurement with decision support in “[Setting the Standard](#).”

Finally, in “[Using Data to Survive RAC Attacks](#),” Dawn Crump offers tips on how HIM professionals can use the Recovery Audit Contractor audit reporting process to create a “comprehensive data trail of information” that can be used to drive future process improvement.

No matter what HIM changes are in store in 2014, AHIMA is here to help. Let us know what your challenges are and we’ll help you meet them.

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