

Charting HIM's Course in 2012: New Year Offers Opportunity to Renew Focus on Profession's Future

Save to myBoK

By Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE

I love this time of year. The new year gives all of us an opportunity to reflect on the past and set goals based on our dreams and aspirations for the months ahead.

There is something magical about wiping the slate clean and starting anew. It reminds me of the ground with a fresh covering of snow. You get to decide the steps to take and in what direction to head.

My challenge to all of you is to take time to think about what you would personally like to accomplish in 2012, whether it's going back to school, becoming a content expert on a specific subject at work, preparing for and taking one of our credentialing exams, mentoring a young emerging HIM professional, doing a better job at work-life balance, volunteering, or taking steps to become healthier.

Whatever you decide, I strongly encourage you to write your goals down and then get started. Studies have shown that people who write down their goals are significantly more likely to achieve them.

Charting AHIMA's Course

At AHIMA, we realize that setting direction is imperative. By establishing specific, measurable goals we become more focused, proactive rather than reactive, and aligned with what is best for the HIM member and profession as a whole.

We know we cannot be all things to all people, and so it is necessary for us to prioritize and remain true to our charted course. We are fortunate to have the AHIMA Board of Directors as thought leaders. They have worked diligently to determine the most compelling strategy for our association and approve those projects that are the most important to move us forward this year.

Preparing for the Year Ahead

The Journal is here to help you reach your professional goals for 2012. In "Field Guide," AHIMA practice experts offer a preview of the issues on the HIM landscape for the year ahead. The industry is changing rapidly, and there are multiple issues and initiatives organizations must contend with in the coming year. This article provides a guide to seeing the trees through the forest in 2012.

"Unintended Consequences" provides an overview of results from a report commissioned by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on the unintended outcomes of EHRs. The guide, developed with assistance from the AHIMA Foundation, is designed to help organizations anticipate, avoid, and address problems that can occur when implementing or using an EHR.

In "Rounding with Scribes," Anne Tegen and Jennifer O'Connell recount their organization's experience adding scribes to its inpatient rounding teams. Using scribes to document patient encounters for physicians offers both benefits and challenges.

My hope for each of you is that you have a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2012. Remember that AHIMA is here to assist you in reaching your professional goals, whether through *Journal* articles, products and services, member support, or advocacy. We want to partner with you on your personal path to achieving big dreams.

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