E-HIM: a "Glocal" Challenge

Save to myBoK

by Linda Kloss, RHIA, CAE, executive vice president/CEO

The US is embarked on a public works agenda as major as highways, water works, and electrical grids. This same agenda is being pursued around the world in many developed and developing countries. It is a worldwide project to design and implement electronic health information systems. As HIM professionals, we are a very big part of these agendas, and our efforts will determine their success.

AHIMA launched its e-HIM initiative last year to:

- Promote the migration from paper to an electronic health information infrastructure
- Reinvent how institutional and personal health information and records are managed
- Deliver measurable cost and quality results from improved information management

E-HIM is the centerpiece for many exciting AHIMA initiatives in the months ahead, and we hope that it also factors into your professional priorities.

E-HIM Is about Advancing Standards

In this issue, AHIMA professional practice management team members Harry Rhodes, Don Mon, and Michelle Dougherty describe the evolution of a standard for the EHR system in "The Drive for an EHR Standard Picks up Speed." We take standards for granted in our everyday life. When you place a call from your cell phone, for example, standards permit interoperability that make differences in systems and manufacturers transparent.

By contrast, little in health information is interoperable. AHIMA representatives are deeply involved in advancing EHR standards, because without standards there will be no health information infrastructure.

E-HIM also means developing new guidelines. "Your Guide to Implementing the EHR" reports on remarkable work by HIM experts who came together last summer to develop practice guidance on thorny e-HIM issues.

E-HIM Is about Professional Sharing

Transitioning from a paper to electronic paradigm requires pioneers who work through change and share their hard-won knowledge. We thank Michelle Wieczorek for sharing the experience of Saint Vincent Health System in Erie, PA, in "Taking Electronic Document Management beyond the HIM Department." AHIMA will soon publish a case study e-book providing in-depth guidance for the transition to the EHR and related systems.

Susan P. Hanson and Roy E. Schutzengel share their experience in implementing an EHR at Main Street Pediatrics in Bridgeport, CT, in "Pioneers and Perseverance." In "Apples to Apples: Using Auto-benchmarking to Measure Productivity," P.J. Miller and F.L. Waterstraat present a new management technique for monitoring and improving productivity, a key element of e-HIM.

Do you have experiential learning to share? Take part in the Communities of Practice, check out the new Practice Solutions and Best Practice programs from FORE, contact the editor of the *Journal of AHIMA*, or volunteer to speak at your local or state association meeting. Please become an active part of e-HIM.

E-HIM: Local + Global = Glocal

E-HIM is "glocal." The term reflects how aspects of life are shifting, seemingly outward and inward at the same time. National-level decisions have international dimensions, and yet execution—really making things work—is very much a local issue. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to host the 14th Congress of the International Federation of Health Records Organizations in conjunction with our own 76th National Convention and Exhibit, October 9–14 in Washington, DC. This will be a time to explore challenges in the global community that lead us to change our own places of work.

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