

Few of Our Favorite Things

Save to myBoK

by Margaret Stewart, RRA

When I walk into a bookstore I see titles like *14,000 Things to Be Happy About*. Such books remind us that birthday parties, sunsets on the beach, puppies, and other things can help us renew our resources of happiness. With that in mind, this month I decided to write about things that we, as HIM professionals, should be happy about in 1998.

Everyone in this country has a medical record.

Except for the rare people who have never had any contact with a healthcare facility or provider, each person born in the US has a medical record. Why is this good news for us? Because each one of these records and the information they contain must be managed. What group has the knowledge and talent to manage these? As HIM professionals, we do.

Information is power.

HIM professionals have so much valuable data at our fingertips. To realize that we can use that information to shape and influence the delivery of healthcare is an awesome thought. Let's put the information to meaningful use.

Excel, PowerPoint, the Internet, and other boons of technology

How fortunate we are to have the ability to create outstanding presentations, spreadsheets, and graphs in minutes. Those efforts took hours or days in the past. In addition, our research efforts have been simplified through access to the Internet. Technology may annoy us sometimes, but the advantages have got to be appreciated.

AHIMA is thriving.

We have a wonderful, viable Association that continues to grow. We have qualified, competent leaders and staff who sincerely are concerned about each of our more than 38,000 members. Many professional organizations throughout the country are not so lucky.

Documentation has gained an even greater emphasis in healthcare.

HIM professionals have been stating for years, "If it's not documented, it's not done." Now healthcare practitioners are beginning to take those kinds of statements more seriously. With liability risks and the issue of fraud and abuse, providers realize that maintaining accurate, timely documentation is imperative.

The need for qualified HIM professionals continues to grow.

If you have a career in HIM, that is certainly something to celebrate. Our career opportunities are limitless and promise to be so into the next century.

DRGs, APGs, RUGs, HIPAA, and other important acronyms

Regulatory issues that involve confidentiality, documentation, and coding keep our profession at the forefront. These also present opportunities for our members to shine.

Our network of peers is outstanding.

We have outstanding professionals in our association. I cannot think of a group of professionals more competent or polished. Also, for me, the friendships formed within AHIMA endure and bring me great pleasure.

HIM careers can allow you to have a quality life.

If you determine you want to work part time as a coder or pursue an opportunity as a consultant, you have that freedom. HIM careers are so varied and diverse that individuals can create their own paths. When spending more time with your family is important, you can often adjust your schedule to meet those needs.

These are a lot to think about. However, to finish the list, here are a few more things that we might take for granted—but probably make our lives a little more pleasant.

- *Coding Clinic* references in code books or encoders
- Automated master patient indices
- Laptop computers
- Flex time
- CE opportunities in the *Journal of AHIMA*
- Voice mail
- Outguides
- Enforced record delinquency policies
- Distance learning
- Post-it Notes
- Job sharing
- Vacation time
- AHIMA Triumph Awards
- A pat on the back from your supervisor

Counting our blessings is something we don't do often enough.

Article Citation:

Stewart, Margaret. "A Few of Our Favorite Things." *Journal of AHIMA* 69, no. 6 (1998): 6.

Driving the Power of Knowledge

Copyright 2022 by The American Health Information Management Association. All Rights Reserved.