

# Growing the HIM Body of Knowledge

Save to myBoK

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

I am very excited about the contributions from this issue's feature authors. Each article is a strong new entrant to the body of professional knowledge about HIM. As we end 2000, AHIMA is ramping up its efforts to systematize the body of knowledge (BoK) for HIM so that it is a dynamic and easily accessible tool to help HIM professionals in their everyday work. Practice is changing rapidly. The breadth and depth of practice can no longer be contained in a single textbook. As a result, AHIMA has taken up the challenge of mapping the essential resources that support the theory and application of HIM and making them available on the Internet.

A staff team has been working this year to design a taxonomy of HIM knowledge and research knowledge management techniques and tools. The project will move from design to construction in 2001 with the continual task of mapping knowledge resources such as texts, research, best practices information, practice briefs, and journal articles. Already, several thousand pages of practice information exist on the AHIMA Web site. What separates the current Web-based information resources from the envisioned BoK can be likened to the difference between a master file index and a fully searchable clinical repository. It will take time and money to build this asset for the HIM field, but it has the potential to be a centerpiece for advancing practice and professional learning.

## The Expanding Consumer Side of HIM Practice

To begin, Patrice Spath, BA, RHIT, provides us with a comprehensive and clarifying article on quality measurement and public reporting in "Are Report Cards Measuring Up?" A noted expert and author on quality management, Spath helps us understand its history and the latest initiatives. In "Worlds Collide: Health Information Meets the Internet," Julie Holland, BS, MRA, RHIA, describes the uses for the Internet by healthcare organizations and how HIM professionals can help advance its use.

Using important research on consumer-maintained family records, AHIMA's incoming president-elect, Barbara Odom-Wesley, PhD, RHIA, provides the fundamentals to understand how to help consumers become involved in managing their health and healthcare through proper documentation in "Envisioning the Personal Medical Record." This article spotlights the important emerging HIM role of working directly with health consumers. Dr. Odom-Wesley's research also has lessons that will benefit our own families.

## New Perspectives on Traditional HIM Functions

Learn from the first-prize winner of the 2000 Best Practice Awards from AHIMA's Foundation for Research and Education (FORE). The team from the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, including Joan Hicks, MS, RHIA, Mike Waldrum, MD, MS, Valeria Wilson, MS, and Jeffrey Marwill, MS, demonstrates HIM innovation at its best. Starting with a goal of integrating disparate systems for ambulatory care documentation, the team presents the benefits of innovative use of technology—the intended and the unexpected.

Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA, updates our body of knowledge regarding informed consent requirements, pitfalls, and best practices. She also provides us with Internet resources, allowing us to go further in our study.

## A Culture of Knowledge Sharing

We appreciate and thank all of the contributors to this and other issues of the *Journal of AHIMA*. It takes time and effort to prepare a manuscript for publication, but sharing knowledge is a critical element of a vibrant profession. Many would-be contributors may not even think about the valuable best practices and insights they have that should be shared with colleagues. We urge you to put knowledge sharing high on your professional "to do" list. Information for prospective authors can be found at [www.ahima.org/journal/index.html](http://www.ahima.org/journal/index.html). Further, watch the *Journal* for announcements regarding the 2001 Best Practices

Awards program and participate in Issue Forums discussions on the AHIMA web site. As AHIMA begins to unveil communities of practice and the BoK in the new year, the success of these new tools will depend on how well we expand our culture of knowledge sharing.

---

***Article Citation:***

*Kloss, Linda. "Growing the HIM Body of Knowledge." Journal of AHIMA 71, no. 10 (2000): 27.*

---

### Driving the Power of Knowledge

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