

Industry Making Progress on Information Governance Implementation

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In 2013, when AHIMA began to promote the concept of information governance (IG) in healthcare, it was a fairly new concept for most organizations. Over the past few years, however, we've seen AHIMA's IG concepts and strategies take hold, gain traction, and become successful, often resulting in increased patient safety or a recognizable return on investment. The increased need for governance over the creation, management, access, use, storage, security, sharing, retention, and, eventually, destruction of information from these systems is not the only reason for implementation, but it is certainly advancing the urgency around creation of an IG program.

These IG success stories from the field have been documented in our IG Case Studies, published in the *Journal of AHIMA* "Road to Governance" column over the past year (and available in the AHIMA HIM Body of Knowledge at <http://bok.ahima.org>). Each case study tells a story of how a different organization used AHIMA's Information Governance Adoption Model and/or AHIMA's IGHealthRateTM and the benefits it reaped.

In addition to these successes, AHIMA recently published the 2017 IG survey white paper detailing results from a nationwide survey that assessed adoption of IG principles and practices in the industry. The survey, which took place in July and August 2017, received more than 1,500 responses from clinical and non-clinical leaders in management and staff positions in both provider and non-provider settings. The results found that we are making good progress: there is increasing recognition of IG in healthcare. But we can do better in implementing it.

Through the implementation of IG, healthcare organizations are maximizing the value of their information while minimizing associated risks and costs. It is our responsibility as citizens in the healthcare ecosystem to advance the use of all of our organizations' information assets.

The articles in this month's issue give the latest thinking on IG and other topics that are keeping HIM professionals busy in early 2018. Mary Butler's "IG Pulse Check" gives further insight into the IG survey results and describes what AHIMA members can expect in terms of IG offerings in 2018. The piece also examines an industry-leading IG adopter.

Also this year, the industry will be in the midst of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Quality Payment Program (QPP) "Year 2," the second phase of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) transition. In "MACRA Strategies for 2018 and 2019," Michael Marron-Stearns discusses key components of the QPP, with an emphasis on changes to the policy for 2018 and, as possible, 2019.

Finally, wearing multiple hats and managing multiple new initiatives has made impromptu project managers of many of us. A panel of HIM professionals convened by author Angela Rose discusses how to map out projects, meet milestones, and resolve common challenges. Read their advice in "Using HIM Skills to Lead Enterprise-Wide Projects: An Expert Roundtable."

There is not just one way to implement IG; the sky really is the limit. You will customize the approach based on your skill set, your organization's strategy, and your areas of influence. But now is the time to get started on the road to governance.

Article citation:

Downing, Kathy. "Industry Making Progress on Information Governance Implementation" *Journal of AHIMA* 89, no.2 (February 2018): 15-15.

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