

Information as an Asset

[Save to myBoK](#)

By Angela Kennedy, EdD, MEd, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ

Health information managers have a long history of assuring data quality and the use of data to improve outcomes. As healthcare organizations move from volume-based to value-based models, they are leveraging data to add and extract value in a cost-efficient manner to accomplish strategic goals.

The term "information governance" is integral to establishing best practices in privacy, security, and e-discovery. Say goodbye to outdated and obsolete data. The disposition of transitory, redundant, and obsolete data can help healthcare organizations mitigate the risks taken when managing data and improve overall performance and patient outcomes while lowering costs.

HIM professionals are highly qualified in understanding and leading the way of the soon-to-be technology-driven world of health data. Our understanding of data governance principles and how to transform that data will help the industry run more efficiently.

Information governance will move HIM into the spotlight. Our understanding of information governance positions us as a key resource in developing and facilitating best practices for our organizations. Information governance is necessary because it validates data, makes the reliable data more secure, makes patient information more useful when observing population health, and makes it easier for facilities to exchange information via health information exchanges.

HIM professionals must be effective in establishing best practices that balance data demands for their organizations. Too much data can complicate cases when e-discovery is employed, and too little data may not be sufficient to meet legal, regulatory, and business requirements. Failure to implement sound information governance practices hinders an organization's ability to exchange information safely and accurately. It places the organization at risk for lawsuits because of the threat of security, plagiarism, and incomplete or incompetent health records. Consumer access, the mobile workforce, and new technologies and advancements in cloud computing will require more stringent security policies. Statistics show that implementing information governance improves decision making by 81 percent and has the ability to improve sensitive data protection by 85 percent, according to the information governance page on ahima.org.

Where is the road map to information governance taking your organization? Information governance is an ongoing process that engages people, policy, workflow, and technology. If done well, it is an enterprise-wide initiative that showcases information as a critical asset. Information governance creates an infrastructure to support compliance and value-based models of care.

Drive the power of knowledge at your organization by helping set policy that empowers users and focuses on improving patient outcomes. HIM professionals are the answer to leading the way to a more efficient and safe healthcare system.

Angela Kennedy (angela.kennedy@ahima.org) is head and professor, department of health informatics and information management, at Louisiana Tech University.

Article citation:

Kennedy, Angela. "Information as an Asset" *Journal of AHIMA* 84, no.11 (November 2013): 10-10.

Driving the Power of Knowledge

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