

# Investing in Your Future: Professional Development Enables HIM to Transition with Changing Healthcare Landscape

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Self-assessment and professional development go hand in hand. Have you taken the time to assess your skills and expertise?

Today the industry is faced with a major challenge-not enough HIM and other healthcare professionals to help implement and manage health IT. Radical change is required to transform a primarily paper-based system to a totally electronic, interoperable healthcare industry.

What skills or knowledge do you need for the transformation? Assess your current professional development level and determine whether you need a mentor, coach, classes, degree, or additional experience, then make a plan of action!

Professional development is your private and personal plan for your career. It is your professional New Year's resolution. Take the time to review your next steps in healthcare's transformation and enjoy the process of self-assessment, self-awareness, and professional development planning.

## HIM's Time to Lead

Leaders are not born or made. Leaders choose to lead, and now is your time to make that choice. Are you ready to lead the healthcare industry through the next few years of change?

The industry needs individuals with the skills to gather talented people into efficient, goal-oriented teams and guide them through the challenges of a constantly transforming field. AHIMA is committed to developing leadership, and it offers many opportunities for professional growth and skill development, including the Leadership Academy webinar series.

Designed by AHIMA and FranklinCovey, AHIMA's Leadership Academy helps participants learn to assume new, complex roles and demonstrate leadership in an era of rapid change. This customized leadership webinar series is designed for HIM leaders, senior managers, educators, and executives pursuing professional excellence.

Recognized as one of *Time* magazine's 25 most influential Americans, Stephen R. Covey is an internationally respected leadership authority, family expert, teacher, and organizational consultant whose advice has given insight to millions. I am thrilled to let you know that Covey will be one of the keynote speakers at AHIMA's 83rd Convention and Exhibit in Salt Lake City, UT.

## HIM Expertise Needed

HIM professionals are in the midst of the greatest transformation in the history of our great profession. Promoting EHR adoption requires a workforce capable of using health IT. Most healthcare providers will need technical assistance and training. Internal staff and external consultants specializing in HIM are needed *now* to collaborate with vendors to design systems that meet the needs and requirements of the standards.

We must work with providers to design requirements and select systems that meet the unique needs of a practice or hospital, redesign workflow to align with the new software, and achieve the expected benefits of improving efficiency and quality. HIM professionals are dedicated to training providers and staff on all HIM aspects, educating the future workforce, and conducting research on the future of HIM.

Now more than ever we must demonstrate that we are the profession that enables "quality healthcare through quality information."

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