

Meeting the ARRA Challenge: Matching Skill with Confidence Leads to Success

Save to myBoK

By Rita Bowen, MA, RHIA, CHPS, SSGB

Last year was full of discussion and debate regarding the provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The year closed with rules on breach notification, meaningful use, and health IT certification, but plenty of questions and plenty of work remained on this major legislation as the new year began.

The bill does provide a proposed map from which we can connect the dots. In order to do this, we must combine the skills we can offer with confidence that we can succeed.

Keys to ARRA Success

We have a unique opportunity to use our HIM skills to help control healthcare costs. A well-planned implementation is vital. This is not just about technology; it is also about the structure of how information flows.

All organizations will need a well thought-out data governance model and data mapping. We will be called upon to assist in change management and workflow redesigns to improve clinical performance and outcomes.

As HIM leaders it is important to acknowledge that we do not have all the answers. It will take collaboration among all information players to achieve the goals outlined in the legislation.

HIM leaders should work with those around us to get the job done. Just how well we do this is the mark of an effective leader. We need to let our passion show by helping our organizations and communities develop the correct health record content.

ARRA provides a carrot and stick, which in time will become a carrot and whip. I encourage you to read and respond to the proposed set of procedures for claiming or applying for the various assistance programs outlined in the act (for links to the published regulations, visit www.ahima.org/arra). We must prepare for the opportunities ARRA provides, work quickly and decisively, and not allow ourselves to get bogged down with an “I can’t” mentality.

The Power of Belief

If you are feeling overwhelmed and not sure of what lies ahead, I encourage you to read *Excuses Begone!* by Wayne W. Dyer. There is no doubt we face challenging times, but we should be joyful, not scared, regarding our opportunity to contribute. The *Excuses Begone!* paradigm assists in assessing what prevents us from being the best that we can be—those mental blocks or beliefs that do not let us fly.

When I was a child, I used to love playing circus with my brothers. One brother would push me on one swing, while the other would push a swing from another limb and encourage me to catch it. For the most part I was always successful in catching the other swing, yet when my brothers tried they often were not.

I remember thinking I was just special, but my dad told me the reason I was able to catch the swing was because I believed I could do it. There is power in belief.

We must make this our time to shine. Virginia Woolf once stated, “Arrange whatever pieces come your way.” Let 2010 be remembered for the fact that we turned loose old habits that were holding us back and led from the seat we were in.

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Driving the Power of Knowledge

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