

# New World of Information Governance

Save to myBoK

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This month, AHIMA celebrates our fourth annual Information Governance (IG) Month. AHIMA created this event to increase awareness and understanding of IG and to help members understand IG's importance to HIM practice. You'll be seeing more details about IG Month in our publications, in your e-mail, and on social media.

IG Month is a great time to check out some of the resources AHIMA has developed in the past year. The AHIMA IG team has been especially busy, as we rolled out the IG Toolkit and IG PulseRate™, a free online assessment tool that provides a quick check of your organization's IG maturity level. This month, be on the lookout for IG HealthRate™, a comprehensive assessment that will provide a complete picture of the health of your organization's information and help you better understand the IG adoption model.

All of this activity is especially timely, as IG is beginning to heat up in healthcare organizations. Last summer, AHIMA and Cohasset Associates published the findings of a second survey on the state of IG in healthcare. The report's findings were encouraging in that "the work underway by healthcare professionals to advance information governance is met with a growing prioritization of IG by their organizations."<sup>1</sup> The realization that IG is an organization-wide and strategic issue is beginning to grow. In fact, 44 percent of survey respondents indicated that over the past 12 months, IG advancement has occurred in their organizations.

"Every healthcare professional requires, makes use of, and is impacted by information," the report says. "While only a few may currently possess or identify with an IG-specific position or title, advancing information governance is, nonetheless, the responsibility of many."<sup>2</sup>

The survey shows good progress, but we need to make even more. Growing numbers of systems and devices, the increasing rate and volume of EHR adoption, a lack of standards, and the growing need for interoperability all make it increasingly critical to be able to ensure the reliability, integrity, and trustworthiness of healthcare information. It is, indeed, a new world of IG.

The articles in this month's *Journal* offer some valuable insights into the new world of IG. In our cover story, "[Cultivating Healthcare Information Governance](#)," Mary Butler discusses the current state of IG in the industry and provides practical tips for selling and implementing an IG program at a healthcare organization.

In "[Adaptive Leadership in Information Governance](#)," Patty Thierry Sheridan and Valerie Watzlaf share how they developed a focus group study with HIM leaders to determine how adaptive leadership concepts relate to being a leader in IG, and how these skills can help HIM professionals tackle challenges. Centralization of HIM services is another force creating considerable change. In "[Making the Most of HIM Centralization](#)," a panel of HIM professionals talk about the state of centralization, challenges and lessons learned, and strategies for ensuring a successful transition. Finally, in "[The State of Information Governance in 2016](#)," Information Governance Initiative founder and executive director Barclay T. Blair discusses the results of his organization's annual report studying IG adoption in various industries—and notes healthcare as a whole is moving in the right direction.

## Notes

1. Knight, Karen and Carol Stainbrook. "Information Governance in Healthcare: 2015 White Paper." AHIMA. 2015. <http://research.zarca.com/survey.aspx?k=RQsURPPsUTUsPsPsP&lang=0&data=>
2. Ibid.

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