Study Weights Industry Knowledge of Standards for EHR

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Respondents to a study measuring industry awareness and use of the minimum content recommended in the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards for electronic health records (EHR) believe that the minimum data elements outlined in the standards should be included in all systems. But the majority of respondents were not aware or only slightly aware of the ASTM E1384 standards, the study found. The report was published in AHIMA's online research journal, *Perspectives in HIM (PHIM)*, in January.

According to the study, 13 percent of respondents had an EHR system fully in place, while 10 percent did not have or did not plan to have one. The majority of respondents (62 percent) used a vendor system for EHR development. The study also asked participants to determine how important specific data elements were in an existing or proposed EHR system.

"Standards for the Content of the Electronic Health Record," by Valerie J.M. Watzlaf, PhD, FAHIMA, RHIA, Xiaoming Zeng, M.D., Christine Jarymowycz, and Patti Anania Firouzan, describes the study's methods and results. The study was funded in part by AHIMA's Foundation of Research and Education. The article is the first publication by the *PHIM* journal, which was launched in 2003 to provide a forum for peer-reviewed HIM-related research. To read the article, go to www.ahima.org/perspectives.

Citation:
"Study Weighs Industry Knowledge of Standards for EHR." *Journal of AHIMA* 75, no.3 (March 2004): 54.

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