

# Taking Action for Health Information

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By Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE, chief executive officer

Throughout the year we've been talking about AHIMA's transformation. Our aim with this project has been to keep AHIMA relevant in light of today's trends and to become an association that better meets the needs of our audience and the industry.

As we've worked through introducing our new mission ("Empowering people to impact health") and vision ("A world where trusted information transforms health and healthcare by connecting people, systems, and ideas") we have also developed a bold vision for ecosystem-wide change. And we have developed a long-term strategy that will guide us as we work to make our vision a reality. You can read more about the strategy in the [AHIMA Transformation Toolkit](#) in the AHIMA Membership Community on Engage.

A key component of the strategy has been to advance and advocate for the creation of trusted information across the evolving health continuum. This means that as an association, AHIMA must lead conversations in the industry to solve pressing problems and connect with what truly matters for our members and other healthcare professionals.

In 2020 and beyond, we will be putting our strategy into action through activities that boost our thought leadership platform. We have prioritized three particular areas that will advance our mission in significant ways:

- **Integrity:** AHIMA advances the knowledgeable, contextual, secure, and appropriate creation and use of health data and leads industry conversations on innovative ways to ensure integrity
- **Connection:** AHIMA facilitates optimal sharing of data between providers, consumers, health information networks, and health plans through technology-enabled, secure access to electronic health information
- **Access:** AHIMA guides the industry toward the most effective policies and practices to balance the ever-evolving need for appropriate access to protected health information with ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and security of protected health information

During 2019, AHIMA convened industry thought leaders in several key areas. In this issue of the Journal, we feature the work of a roundtable of AHIMA's coding thought leaders, a group that meets on an ongoing basis to discuss the evolution of the profession. Anne Zender recaps one of those conversations—touching on everything from ICD-11 to the future of coding education and the perennial need to “upskill” for the future—in “The Future of Coding.”

In our cover story, Mary Butler takes a look at the progress being made to support value-based care with healthcare data. “Are We There Yet?” examines whether meaningful use and its successor, MACRA, are successfully using data generated by electronic systems to improve patient care and drive down costs.

Finally, electronic case reporting (eCR) can dramatically improve the effectiveness of case reporting and overarching health surveillance of communities. Allison Viola, MBA, RHIA, reports on the latest developments in eCR and how HIM can support a comprehensive national approach in “Making the Electronic Case Reporting Transition.”

These are just some of the significant healthcare issues we, as a profession, need to weigh in on. Thank you for taking the time to read and stay up to date.

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