

October, 2010

President's Message



Patrice Spath, BA, RHIT,
OrHIMA President
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"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it."
- H.E. Luccock

Your board members and numerous volunteers are actively engaged in association activities that are advancing the HIM profession in Oregon and providing ever-better member services. Two board members, Christina Grijalva and Gwen Jimenez, have been appointed to the Legal and Policy Workgroup of the Oregon Health Information Technology Oversight (HITTOCH) Council. This group is advising the Council on issues such as consent and specially protected health information and standards for privacy and security.

In late October, board members Debra Harris and Yvonne Stiller and I will meet with representatives from the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, the Oregon Medical Association, and other interested groups to begin mapping out a coordinated state-wide strategy for the ICD-10 transition. By involving major stakeholders in the development of this strategy we hope to reduce duplicative training efforts and ensure availability of low-cost education throughout the state.

Landis Reed is lining up some outstanding speakers for our Coding Roundtables. Plans are underway to offer more roundtable teleconferences on a wider range of coding topics. Although the 2011 OrHIMA Convention seems like a long way off, chair Michael Kaitschuck and other program committee members are already at work to make this the best convention ever. Be sure to put it on your calendar: May 19-21, 2011.

Idella Davis, our website coordinator, is one of OrHIMA's unsung heroes. She made sure the Fall Institute handouts got posted to our website in plenty of time for registrants to download them before coming to the meeting. Among her many contributions is keeping the online education calendar up-to-date. If you see Idella, please give her a well-deserved "thank you."

We have a wonderful orchestra of people contributing their time and talents and I've only named just a few. In each issue of ePursuit you'll get to know more of them. If you'd like to join in the fun and camaraderie, contact Staci Coy (staci.coy@capellahealth.com) for information on the various 2011 OrHIMA ballot positions. It's fine to nominate yourself for a position – no need to wait for someone to do it for you. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that takes just a few hours of your time, let me know where your interests lie and we'll find just the right spot for you.

OrHIMA Distinguished Member Nominations

The Distinguished Member Award honors an OrHIMA member for notable and enduring contributions and service to the association and the profession. To be considered for the award, an individual must be a member in good standing of AHIMA/OrHIMA. In addition the person must meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Fifteen years of service as an active HIM professional;
- At least ten years of service to the OrHIMA and/or the AHIMA as a board member or officer, committee chairman or member, project manager or member, council member, etc.
- Has made a contribution to the HIM profession through activities such as publication, education, systems design, public relations, research, etc.

Distinguished Member nomination forms are available on the Oregon COP on the AHIMA website or you can email Patrice Spath at Patrice@brownspath.com to obtain a nomination form. Deadline for submission of nominations: January 1, 2011. Contact Patrice Spath at patrice@brownspath.com or contact a Board member. The roster of 2010-11 Board members and other OrHIMA volunteers has been posted on the Oregon COP on the AHIMA website.



AHIMA House of Delegates, Orlando, Florida

Bonnie Altus, MS, RHIT, CPHIMS, CHPS

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Prior to attending the House of Delegates meeting, we asked for your input on how you would like to see your delegates vote on some issues we knew would be before the house. What is interesting about this process is that sometimes we learn new information at the action forums prior to the House of Delegates meetings that was not provided to us prior to arriving at the convention. In addition, sometimes amendments are added that totally change the amendment we thought we would be voting on.

The Tennessee Health Information Management Association proposed a bylaw amendment to change the name of AHIMA by inserting the word "Informatics and" into the association name making the name the American Health Informatics and Information Management Association. A two-thirds majority vote was required to adopt. A vote was conducted and the amendment to the bylaws was clearly defeated.

So this means that for the time being, the name of the association will not change. When taking the member survey, the majority who responded were in favor of changing the name, although quite a few of you responded who did not want to see the name changed. In the action forums we learned that the AHIMA CEO and the board president will be meeting with AMIA (American Medical Informatics Association) in the near future to discuss this possible change in AHIMA's name but that meeting had not taken place yet. It also appeared that some additional research needed to be conducted before making this change. The vote seemed to some of us to be a little premature. Once more discussions take place, this could come up for a vote again.

The Nebraska Health Information Management Association proposed a bylaw amendment on the House of Delegates Apportionment and a contingent motion on Composition. The New Jersey Health Information Management Association moved to amend the pending bylaw amendment for the Senate apportionment model by striking out the language of the original bylaw amendment and inserting new language based on a thirds model. The thirds model would have divided the House into thirds: small, medium, and large CSA's that assigned delegates based on membership total. A counted vote was conducted, 117 voted yes and 103 voted no to approve the amendment. The amended motion required a two-thirds majority vote to adopt, a vote was conducted, 118 voted yes and 97 voted no, the amendment to the bylaws was defeated.

What this means is that Nebraska proposed that each state would have two delegates only, regardless of the size of the state. Based on your input and the views of our delegates, we planned to vote yes on that amendment. However when it came to the floor of the house, New Jersey moved to amend the amendment proposed by Nebraska with a thirds model. This meant that we were actually voting on an amendment that would have divided the CSA's into small, medium and large states and assigned delegate numbers based on the total membership of the state, instead of the one we expected to be voting on. Oregon would be in the medium category. However there were a lot of questions remaining about how a CSA would move from one size grouping to another. Two votes were taken. The first was to make the change New Jersey proposed to the Nebraska amendment. OrHIMA delegates voted no; however, that vote passed. The second vote was whether to accept the bylaws amendment, which was now based on the thirds model. We voted no on this, and it did not pass since there was not a two-thirds majority.



OrHIMA Delegates to the 2010 AHIMA House of Delegates



Call for Nominations for OrHIMA Board

Staci Coy, RHIA, CHPS, CCS, Nominating Committee Chair
staci.coy@capellahealth.com

Be a Volunteer!

We need your name for our 2011 OrHIMA ballot!

Yes, YOUR NAME! You are an integral part of our association and you have opinions and expertise to offer! We are putting together our ballot for the 2011 year. There are

several positions we need to fill. Do any of them pique your interest? If not yours, do you know of anyone that would be great in that position? We'd like to hear from you and....don't be bashful about nominating yourself. Please email your willingness to volunteer or names of associates that you'd recommend to staci.coy@capellahealth.com or any of the Board of Directors. You can make a difference!

2011 Positions:

President Elect (3 years total)
Secretary - 1 year commitment
Director of Advocacy - 2 year position
Director of Public Relations - 2 year position
OrHIMA Nominee to the AHIMA Nominating Committee



Fall Institute 2010

Yvonne Stiller, MA, RHIA, OrHIMA Education Director
yvonne@mcmc.net

"This was great. Fantastic speakers, great location and food. Well done. I loved having the affordable one day. Awesome, one of the best conferences ever."

"Good choice of topics."

"Conference was well organized and informative."

(comments from 2010 Fall Institute attendees)

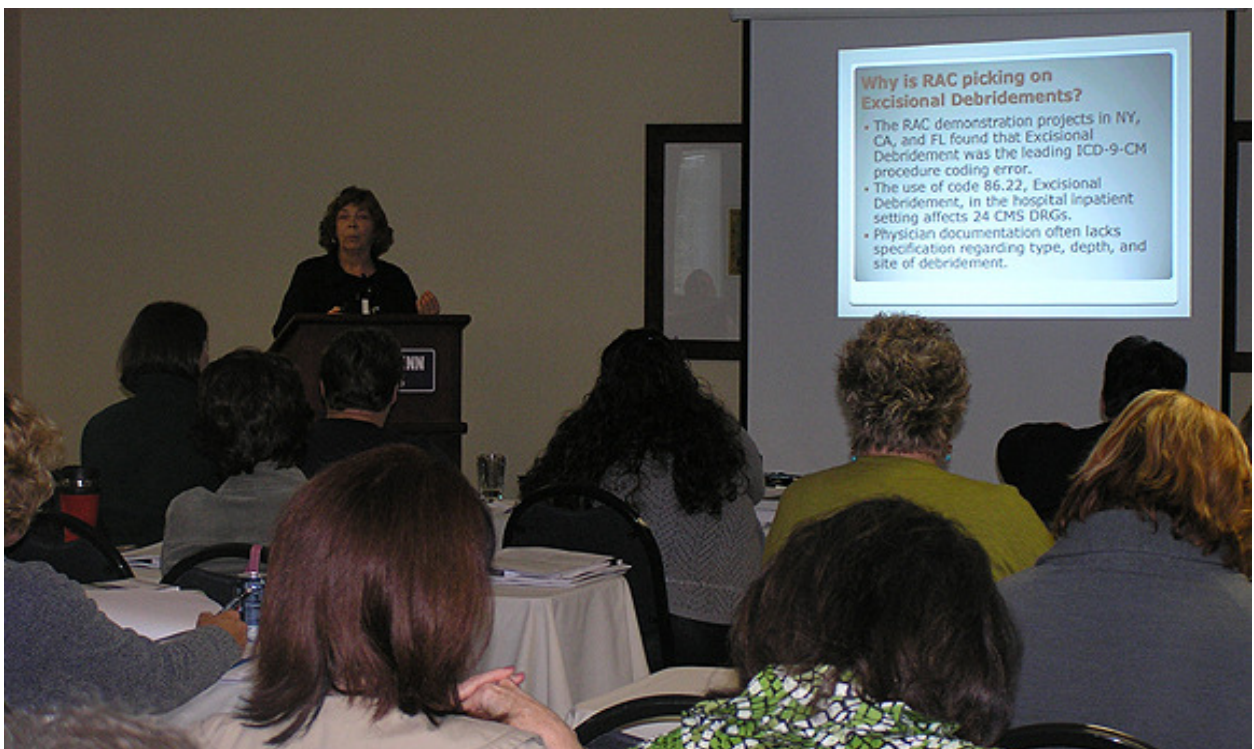
The 2010 Fall Institute was held September 10, 2010 at the Phoenix Inn Suites in Albany, Oregon. Seventy-eight people attended to listen to topics that ranged from coding E/M levels and excisional debridement to ARRA/HIPAA updates and Oregon HITOC.

Of the evaluations returned, 99% of the attendees responded "strongly agree" or "agree" that the Fall Institute met their expectations; they would attend and/or recommend future OrHIMA educational meetings; as a result of the sessions they were better able to do their job and that they could put to use information they learned.

Co-chairs for the Fall Institute were Della Mauler and Molly Sengvongxay. They worked hard to provide attendees with an organized and informative program. Thank you ladies! I would also like to thank Tracy Stott for her time and coordination of the registration process.

Your Education Committee now begins to plan the spring convention to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lake Oswego, May 19 – 21, 2011. Chairman for this event will be Michael Kaitschuck. We would love to hear from you regarding topics that you would like to see on the agenda. You can e-mail me at: yvonne@mcmc.net

Familiar Faces at the OrHIMA 2010 Fall Institute, Albany, OR





Why We Need to Advance Our IT Skills

Ann Wenning, RHIT, HIT Program Director, Portland Community College

awenning@pcc.edu

Those of us that have been working in HIM for the last decade or more have witnessed the rapid transition from paper to electronic health record systems. As Patrice Spath stated in her President's Message (e-Pursuit Sept. 2010): "...our profession is in the midst of yet another evolution."

Electronic health record systems are not only changing the face of healthcare delivery, but drastically changing the way we do our work. In addition to hiring individuals that are detail-oriented or have excellent coding skills and are committed to the ethics required of the profession, we must now also recognize the importance of employees having strong IT skills.

As reported in the October 2010 edition of the AHIMA Journal article "Basic Training: Community Colleges Tackle Six-Month Health IT Programs":

"Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), medical offices, hospitals and clinics have federal incentives through 2014 to convert their medical records from paper to electronic. The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) allotted approximately \$70 million for the program it has named the Community College Consortia to Educate Information Technology Specialists in Healthcare. Its goal is to satisfy an expected demand for a health IT workforce that can assist with EHR implementation nationwide." The workforce roles being identified will consist of implementation managers, technical support specialists, trainers, and practice workflow and information management specialists. As the AHIMA journal article affirms, **"HIM professionals are well suited for these roles, especially the practice workflow and information management specialist, since we understand the intricacies of the flow of medical information"**.

To adopt these new roles, HIM professionals must rise to the expected skill level and advance our IT proficiency. As a member of Oregon's Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals, I would like to encourage OrHIMA members to support OrHIMA's newly designated strategic priority "to increase EHR educational offerings and collaborate with health informatics and information management activities within the state".

Training to enhance your IT skills can be obtained through your local community colleges via individual computer information system classes or the six-month health IT concentration of study awards (as reported in the AHIMA "Basic Training" article.) For those interested in finding out more about the HICSA six-month training and funding opportunities, Portland Community College is presenting an information session on October 20th, at 2:00 pm, at PCC's Willow Creek Center in Beaverton. Workers who have been laid off from their jobs may be eligible for training funding through PCC Washington County Workforce Development. Details will be presented in the orientation. If you are interested but unable to attend, additional information can be obtained from the following Oregon Community College Consortia representatives:

- Blue Mountain Community College – Diana Hammon, dhammon@bluecc.edu, 541-278-5762
- Lane Community College – Larry Scott, scottl@lanecc.edu, 541.463.5458
- Mt. Hood Community College – Donna Larson, Donna.Larson@mhcc.edu, 503.491.7175

- Portland Community College – Paul Wild, pwild@pcc.edu, 503.533.2893
- Umpqua Community College – Mark Williams, Mark.Williams@umpqua.edu, 541.440.4713



Update on AHIMA ICD-10 Readiness Survey

Debra Harris, MA, RHIA, OrHIMA Communications Director
debra.harris@salemhealth.org

Meta Health sponsored an on-line survey administered by AHIMA just prior to the annual convention in Orlando last month and early results are in. While some progress has been made in the two years since the last survey, much work remains to be done. More HIM professionals reported that their organizations have started to plan for the transition than in 2008. Only 15 percent said they had not yet considered bringing together a planning team, compared to the almost 36 percent in the 2008 sample.

Similarly more than 30 percent of respondents said they had met w/ their respective planning teams, compared with only 7 percent in 2008.

There has been some change in what people listed as their biggest roadblocks. Respondents cited the overall complexity of the change and a lack of time to properly prepare as the top two barriers in both 2008 and 2010. However, budget constraints were more pronounced in the 2010 results (19%) than in 2008 (15%).

The survey was sent to a larger segment of the membership via e-mail. At convention time only 932 members had responded. Preliminary results can be accessed at the following URL:

<http://www.ahimatoday-digital.com/ahimatoday/20100929/?pg=22&pm=2&u1=friend>

Full results from the survey will be available at www.ahima.org by the end of the year.

Health Information and Technology Week: November 7-13

HI&T Week is a showcase for the thousands of health information management (HIM) professionals who perform their duties masterfully throughout the year. Many of you are probably planning celebrations in your workplace and your creativity will once again shine a spotlight on the value you and your HIM colleagues contribute to your business. E-mail me a brief story of what you did, send photographs if you have them, and we will publish some of them in the November ePursuit.

~ Debra Harris, Communications Director

October, 2010

CoP Update

Tracy Stott, RHIT, OrHIMA CoP Co-Facilitator
tlstottrhit@yahoo.com

Your CoP for Oregon has been virtually empty for the past two months. Why is that? Are there other more useful places to go? Where do you get answers to the questions that plague you and your organization? The AHIMA CoP posted a social media survey yesterday; it will be up through November 5th. As members, we need to participate in this survey. Obviously, we need to be heard.

There is a college that is trying to start an HIT student club. The writer wishes to know if there are any other schools that have such clubs. I know the one I recently graduated from had an online one, similar to the CoP.

Another person asks "When do you merge patient records? Before the patient arrives, while the patient is an inpatient, or after they have been released? Who does the merging?" Why are we still facing this question when computers should be "seeing" this problem?

There is a lot to see, much to say, and we need to have our voices heard. Come on Oregon let's shout.

Update on the AHIMA Not-So-Silent Auction

Each year, AHIMA asks the Component State Associations (CSA's) to donate an item for the Silent Auction at the annual AHIMA convention. The funds raised in the auction benefit the Foundation Merit Scholarship program. A total of 72 scholarships totaling \$94,650 were awarded in 2010. OrHIMA donates a gift each year that represents our state and its unique qualities. This year an Oregon artist, Amerinda Alpern, donated a print of a beautiful quilt she made. Since we featured a picture of the print in September's issue, we thought you might like to know that AHIMA raised over \$30,000 this year during the Not-So-Silent Auction in Orlando, Florida.

Does Your AHIMA Member Profile Need Updating?

Debra Harris, MA, RHIA, Communications Director
debra.harris@salemhealth.org

Remember to update your member profile on AHIMA's website (www.ahima.org) when you have a new email address so you will continue to receive OrHIMA communications. OrHIMA gets member contact information from AHIMA. When the AHIMA database is not current, we lose touch with members. If a fellow OrHIMA member is not receiving these communications, please remind them to update their AHIMA member profile.

Calendar of Events

OrHIMA Events:

- **Board of Director Meetings:**
 - First Friday of every month, 3-5 PM
- **Coding Roundtables:**
 - October 28, 2010: Interventional Radiology Procedure Coding
- **Annual Spring Meeting:**
 - May 19-21, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Oswego

AHIMA Events:

Audio seminar/webinars: (Further information can be found at <http://cop.ahima.org/COP/Public/Events/>)

- **An Overview of the AHIMA CDI Practice Brief and Ethical Standards: October 19**
- **The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) 2010 Work Plan: A Review: October 21**
- **ICD-10-PCS: Bridging the Gap in Anatomy and Physiology: October 28**
- **Coding for Orthopedic Surgical Procedures: November 4**
- **Clarifying HITECH: Accounting of Disclosures and Other Compliance Challenges: November 10**
- **ICD-10-CM/PCS Transition: Fundamentals of General Equivalence Mapping (GEM): November 10**
- **Mind Boggling ? Procedural Coding for Psychiatric Services: November 11**
- **Ongoing Challenges with HACs, POAs, and Never Events: November 16**
- **Coding Clinic 2010: A Closer Look: November 18**

- **National Conventions:**
 - **2011 National Convention**, October 1-6, 2011, in Salt Lake City, Utah
 - **2012 National Convention**, September 26-Oct 4, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois