



MHIMA Uplink

June 2012

Welcome!



Welcome to the **June 2012** issue of our MHIMA member and corporate partner e-newsletter, *Uplink*. We hope you enjoy our newsletter!

Feeling creative? Looking for some CEUs? We are always looking for authors of articles of broad interest to our MHIMA membership: about 500 words, worth **two (2)** CE credits for your original work. There are lots of "hot topics" in today's world of healthcare, Privacy & Security, e-HIM, ICD-10, etc. If you're interested in authoring an article, please contact MHIMA's [Executive Director](#).

Current and past issues of our e-newsletter are available under the [UPLINK E-NEWSLETTERS button](#) on our MHIMA website.

President's Message



Gina Sanvik, RHIA,
MHIMA President
AHIMA Certified
ICD-10 Trainer

Summer Greetings Everyone!!! This will be my last President's message as MHIMA's 2011-12 President. I won't be too far away though as I'll sit as the MHIMA Past President for 2012-13. It has been quite an honor and privilege to serve this last year as your MHIMA President and have the opportunity to work with all of the many members and volunteers of MHIMA. I could not be prouder of everyone and all your contributions. Thank you for making yourself and our organization better by the things you do.

Looking back at the year, here are just a few things among many to celebrate:

- Successful 2012 MHIMA Annual Meeting with second highest attendance rate ever with 532 attendees. The attendance also included 102 student members.
- Value added, cost effective webinar educational offerings to members were provided. The webinars included five different ICD-10 coding webinars (Katrina Marthaler), and a webinar on Meaningful Use Preparation (Katie Miller and Meghan Judd).
- Approval of several changes to the MHIMA Bylaws to be consistent with language recommended by AHIMA for Component State Associations (CSAs).
- 2011 AHIMA Triumph Award to MHIMA's Legislative and Advocacy Team for their champion

MHIMA Vision & Mission



Vision: The Minnesota Health Information Management Association, together with AHIMA, will set the standard and be the recognized leader in health information management practices, technology, education, research, and advocacy.

Mission: MHIMA is committed to the professional development of its members through education, networking, and life-long learning. These commitments promote high quality health information and benefit the public, health care providers, and other clinical data users.

[Back to Top](#)

- advocacy and public policy advocacy.
- 2011 3rd Place recipient for AHIMA CSA Core Service Achievement for Member Communications..
- \$6,000 in scholarships were awarded to MHIMA members pursuing their educational goals.

This last month went by so quickly for it seems like we were just at the MHIMA annual meeting. At the MHIMA annual meeting I had the opportunity to meet many new members. I am so enthusiastic and optimistic for the new professionals coming to the HIM career and getting involved in this organization. We are so grateful for your energy and creativity and look forward to your volunteerism in MHIMA.

We're currently getting ready to hold the June MHIMA Transitional Board Meeting which will be held at the Allina Commons; 10 am to 3 pm; Room 241. At this meeting, we'll start getting the incoming new board acclimated. Then just around the corner on July 27, MHIMA will hold the MHIMA 2012-13 Strategy Planning Session at the Allina Commons; 10 am to 3 pm; Room 001-B. This meeting is always an exciting one as the group strategically plans and shares ideas for the year ahead.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve the MHIMA organization. It has been a wonderful year that I'm proud to have participated in and been part of such a top notch organization. As always, please let myself, the board or Deb know if there is anything the Association can address in order to better meet the needs of the membership..

Happy Summer Everyone, Enjoy!!
Gina

[Back to Top](#)

ICD-10

Coding Tip of the Month: In the pregnancy section, in ICD-10 CM, the number of weeks used to determine abortion, fetal death, and early and late vomiting in pregnancy has changed from 22



MHIMA Board Transition for 2012-2013

Your 2012-2013 incoming officers and board members will assume office July 1, 2012:

- **President-Elect:** Danika Brinda, MA, RHIA, CHPS
- **Secretary:** Christina Wallner, RHIA
- **Delegate Director:** Katie Miller, MA, RHIA
- **Delegate Director:** Sue Powell, RHIA
- **Audit Committee:** Suzy Johnson, MS, RHIA

weeks in ICD-9-CM to 20 weeks in ICD-10 CM.

AHIMA ICD-10 Academy is Coming to MN!

MHIMA is pleased to announce that we are the conference supporter for the 2012 AHIMA Academy for ICD-10 CM/PCS. The date has been set for August 8-10, 2012. The hotel location is the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis Northstar.

The AHIMA ICD-10 Academies are very popular events for training in ICD-10 CM/PCS and tend to fill up fast. Registration is now open. Click [here](#) for more information.

AHIMA ICD-10 Coder Workforce Training

AHIMA is conducting an ICD-10 Coder Workforce Training in Minneapolis, MN on October 12-14, 2012. The times are 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. This is a dynamic program for coder training in both ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS. Coding professionals looking to achieve proficiency in these two systems will find this program provides a well-rounded base of knowledge as well as exposure to advanced cases in ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS. Students interested in learning ICD-10 diagnosis coding should register for the ICD-10-CM portion of the program. For more information on the pricing (with deadlines), CEUs offered or to

- **Audit Committee:** Sarah Spoon, RHIA

They join Ranelle Bauer, President, Gina Sanvik, Past-President, Kristi Lundgren, Treasurer and Jean MacDonell, 2nd Year Delegate Director in continuing to govern your organization.

MHIMA extends a final official thank you to Sue Jensen as Past-President, and Janelle Wapola as 2nd year Delegate Director, whose terms conclude on June 30, 2012. On behalf of everyone in MHIMA, we are very appreciative of your leadership and commitment to the vision and mission of MHIMA and to our HIM profession.

For a complete list of MHIMA's current Board of Directors, [click here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

AHIMA Ballot for 2012 - CSA Competition During AHIMA Election

Polls opened for voting in the 2012 AHIMA Election on June 4, 2012. Active voting members of MHIMA are encouraged to vote for the AHIMA officers, board members and CCHIIM Commissioners. Your vote counts!

CSA Competition During AHIMA Election

Volunteer Leadership Development and the Nominating Committee are hosting a competition during the AHIMA election June 4-June 22, 2012. Help our CSA increase the voting turnout. The CSA is competing with 16 other CSAs. Please see the chart under the [AHIMA Election – 2012](#) in the State Leaders and House community for the CSA breakdown. Be sure you are a member of this community to view the information.

After the election, AHIMA will choose the top two CSAs with the greatest percentage increase of voters from each category. An early registration to the 2012 AHIMA Convention & Exhibit in Chicago will be awarded to the top two CSAs in each category. Active members, help your CSA out by voting. The voting is open so you can use the [Vote now](#) link on the [ahima.org](#).

Pam Oachs, MA, RHIA is our member on the AHIMA Ballot!

register, click [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

MHIMA Member Spotlight

Greetings from the Marketing and Communications Committee!

We continue this month highlighting another of our MHIMA members as a fun and interesting way to get to know our diverse and multi-talented group. Want to be in the spotlight? Know someone who should be? Please send names of individuals you would like to know more about, or volunteer yourself to "be in the spotlight" in our monthly e-newsletter.

Criteria for suggested individuals might be, but is certainly not limited to:

New MHIMA member
New to active involvement with MHIMA
MHIMA member with an interesting or unique job

Forward your suggested name(s) to [Jon Cloutier](#) or [Amanda Maas](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Staying Connected with MHIMA

Want to stay connected with MHIMA? Be sure your AHIMA

Pam Oachs, MA, RHIA is on the 2012 AHIMA Ballot for Commissioner for the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM). Congratulations to Pam on this nomination! MHIMA is very proud of you! You can find detailed information about Pam and the position she is running for by clicking [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)



Pam Oachs, MA,
RHIA CCHIIM
Candidate

MHIMA Member Spotlight - Sue Jensen, RHIT

Our MHIMA member "in the spotlight" this month is Sue Jensen, RHIT. Sue is the owner and CEO of Medical Supplies, Inc. and TruCare Pharmacy. It is here where she spends her time managing the daily operations of the retail independent home medical equipment store and independent retail pharmacy. Most of her day is spent collecting medical documentation from doctors to support the medical necessity of items that have been either requested by customers, home care agencies or the providers themselves.

Sue attended the Ridgewater College in Willmar, graduating with A.A.S. in 1997. She has been a very active HIM volunteer with past offices held including Region D President; present member of Ridgewater College HIM Advisory Board; MHIMA Delegate; Co-chair to the AHIMA Professional Development and Recognition team; MHIMA President; MHIMA Current Past President; and currently is on the AHIMA Triumph Awards Committee. Sue has had a diverse HIM career which began as a transcriptionist, then became a clinic coder, and then worked in a Critical Access hospital as an HIM Director for seven years.



Sue Jensen, RHIT

A special interest area for Sue is reviewing records to ensure appropriate documentation for products, as well as being able to interpret Local Coverages of Determination to ensure proper payment for products. Another area of interest for Sue is being able to utilize HCPCS codes and understanding the different billing structures and fee schedules for all types of insurance.

profile information is up-to-date.

When is the last time you reviewed the information in your AHIMA profile? Have you changed positions? Do you have a new email address? Have you recently moved? MHIMA depends on the member information in your AHIMA profile on a regular basis, including how we communicate with you.

Take a couple of minutes today and visit the [AHIMA website](#), log in with your seven-digit AHIMA member number and your last name, and click on "My Profile/Dues Renewal." Review all of the sections and update any old information.

In the section for **Component State Association (CSA) Selections**, may we ask that you check "YES" to select e-mails about products and services and "yes" to Postal Mailings. "CSA" stands for the state that you want to be associated with as an AHIMA member. MHIMA uses email as our primary method of communication, and occasionally land mail. If you check "no" in either of these options, you don't receive either type of communication from MHIMA.

Remind your colleagues to update their profile as well. It's the new year! A great time to review your information and stay connected with MHIMA. Thank you!

When asked why she is interested in MHIMA, Sue responded, "I am passionate about giving back to an organization that has helped develop me into the HIM professional that I am today. I enjoy volunteering and leading change. The HIM world is ever changing. Every day, I am learning new and exciting changes that are going on within this field and I am excited to be a part of it. I enjoy going out and presenting to groups regarding HIM issues."

Some hobbies that Sue enjoys are volleyball and spending time with her family. Sue also has great passion for a wide variety of animals. On her family farm, they care for guineas, peacocks, donkeys, pot belly pigs, llamas, a camel, goats, cattle, horses, "and of course a bear."

Sue is very excited to be a part of such a great time with MHIMA. Sue goes on to say, "Throughout the years, I have seen the organization grow under exceptional leadership and it continues to be a wonderful organization to volunteer within. I have met many new people and made new friends during my time on the MHIMA Board."

It's very nice to hear your passion for MHIMA! MHIMA is proud to have you as one of us, Sue.

[Back to Top](#)

Scholarship Essay - Maria Berens - Rochester Community Technical College

\$1000 Scholarship - RHIT Category

"How I Will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession"

Information is the foundation of knowledge, and knowledge is power. Health information empowers the entire healthcare industry. That information developed statistics that show that the United States, in comparison with Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and Australia, has the highest cost of healthcare and the lowest or next to lowest quality of care.^[1]

And who developed those statistics? You did, because if you are reading this, you are probably working in healthcare information in some way. Coders accurately captured the details of both the cost and the medical histories of millions of people.

[Back to Top](#)

MHIMA Job Bank

Are you seeking a job? Are you an employer looking for a potential employee? Is your facility looking for someone with a skill set of MHIMA members?

Be sure to check out the MHIMA Job Bank Network on our website, which continues to be very popular. New positions are posted on a regular basis. On the Job Bank page, you'll find information about registering as a "job seeker" or as an "employer." Check us out often!

Job Seekers: There is no fee to register.

Employers: Job posting fees are very reasonable and position postings are open to everyone visiting our Job Bank as a job seeker. E-blasts of job announcements are available for purchase and reach a targeted audience of MHIMA members who receive emails.

Click [here](#) to visit the MHIMA Job Bank.

[Back to Top](#)

Stay Up-to-Date with MN e-Health

If you aren't receiving the weekly electronic MN e-Health

That information was processed by health information technicians and managers into usable information, information that developed similar statistics to those above, that is truly the foundation of the transformation of healthcare that is occurring today. The value that we provide to public health is undeniable, but we must be leaders, as well as dedicated workers, in insuring recognition of the value of these extraordinary efforts. We must be spokespeople of our profession in hospitals, clinics, and board rooms.

How do we do that? First, we must be the best that we can be. We must earn the respect and trust of others in our efforts. This strengthens the integrity of our work and our words. With that esteem, we can do things, but we cannot do them alone. We should be a part of internal and external groups, providing thoughtful contributions to problem solving and improvements. We must seek both answers and questions, and be prepared to champion our solutions at every opportunity. We should never stop learning or teaching.

We are on the brink of one of the largest changes in our industry as ICD-10 becomes implemented. The years of preparation have led to our doorstep. Its success depends on us. We must both learn the new processes and implement them, sharing our knowledge with everyone in our sphere of influence. We must be resourceful and prepared to answer many questions. Patience and tenacity will be required. It may be necessary, as a team, to reach out to the rural and smaller areas of our country with our expertise to help make the quality and safety improvements we need in healthcare.

Each of these is a strategy for fulfilling a career that is satisfying both in the way we spend our days and in the way that other medical professions, teaching, and farming occupations are satisfying. We are making a difference in the lives of ourselves, our families, and our neighbors. It makes me proud to consider what the results of our contribution to health has been and will be in the future.

All of these words, descriptions, and tactics have been written by me in plural, because without you, I can't move health information forward. I will learn coding well so I have the respect of my peers; I will stay up-to-date on changes and study

Update newsletter, consider signing up for it. This publication, from the MN Department of Health, keeps you current with issues related to e-health, including HITECH, Meaningful Use, Privacy & Security and others. You'll also find links to e-Health resources available for your use. To subscribe, click [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

MHIMA Promotional Items

We have discounted the prices on our MHIMA logo navy crewneck sweatshirt and our navy button down shirt. A limited quantity of these items are available to purchase by visiting our [MHIMA Store](#) on our website to order. We also have a limited quantity of our MHIMA Coffee Mugs with Spoon which could be great collector's items some day! Our MHIMA logo items make a great gift for yourself or a colleague, or to honor someone's achievement. Hurry while quantities are still available!

[Back to Top](#)

the trends that we develop; I will be a leader, I will network with you internally, locally, nationally; I will contribute to quality improvement and problem-solving. I will be an ambassador to colleagues, and leaders, and a mentor to all. Will you join me?

[1] Davis K, Schoen C, Schoenbaum S, Doty, M, Holmgren A, Kriss J, Shea K. *Mirror, Mirror On the Wall: An International Update on the Comparative Performance of American Health Care*. (New York: The Commonwealth Fund, May 2007) Publication no. 1027.

[Back to Top](#)

Scholarship Essay - Iryna Biszko - Anoka Technical College

\$750 Scholarship - RHIT Category

"How I Will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession"

Our age is distinct by rapid changes, and technology turned out to be the power which transformed our everyday life and filled it with the multitude of gadgets. Those tools allow instant communication between people divided by thousands miles, accessing and retrieving information with incredible speed, changing the way people communicate and think, and it definitely transformed the healthcare field. Being fascinating on its own, the medicine have embraced technology as its helpful tool in providing quality care for the patients, serving as a helpful hand in evaluating of trends and making decisions. The Health Information Management professionals are the ones who make analytical, technically-oriented sphere and knowledge of

medicine successfully work together.

The opportunity to receive practical Health Information Technology training from highly skilled teachers is one of the most important steps in becoming an HIT professional along with the natural gifts and talents I possess which are able to complement that knowledge. When I reflect on my past job experiences I realize that the one I felt best about was the one where I was able to make the greatest input. Working as Administrative Assistant for the growing company I'd brought in such skills as coordinating the work of the department, keeping people informed and educated about upcoming changes, managing information and revealing trends through quarterly reports, planning and putting together meetings and big conferences. At times it was very challenging to manage those responsibilities, but I am glad that I had a multitude of opportunities to learn and grow.

To some extent the HIT field is similar to that experience of mine, with rapidly changing pace, new implementations and involvement of people who are willing to make a contribution. The willingness and ability to learn is important for HIT worker, just think about such things as implementation of Electronic Health Records, the computer-assisted coding, ICD-10-CM, and not to mention an advancement in medical field itself. When we as HIT professionals are willing to grow, the HIT field will definitely grow with us. After all, technology is just a tool, the hand which skillfully moves it makes a difference.

The Health Information Technology field is the constantly evolving one. Everybody is getting ready to transitioning to ICD-10-CM in nearest future. The practical training I am able to get now would be very beneficial in its implementation. When I get the understanding and experience in this area I would be able to bring that knowledge with me and apply it, and help others to do that as well, at the same time learning what I don't know. My ability to explain ideas clearly and communicate them to others would be helpful in team working environment.

There is no need to debate the importance of understanding the legal aspects, laws and regulations which apply in HIT field, technical and analytical skills we learn, ability to work as a team. People who possess those skills will shape the world of

Health Information Technology.

Most importantly, the HIT program I am enrolled in requires dedication, persistence, self-discipline, ability to set the goals and follow the plan. As the AHIMA Board President Bonnie Cassidy said in her wrap-up of AHIMA highlights from 2011, "We all know that dreams only come true after the reality of hard work is complete"(Lynne Thomas Gordon, 2012). The positive attitude and enthusiasm helps us in the times when we face obstacles to see the goal we are targeting clearly and make everything possible to reach it. While many changes are on the way in health care field, the enthusiasm and the positive attitude is something that helps people to make necessary changes, discover their skills and abilities, and reap a sweet harvest of implementations.

I truly believe that we contribute the most where we feel motivated, and for me this motivation is an ability to use my knowledge, my God-given talents, and my persistence so that the field I work in is growing and I am growing with it, embracing whatever changes come along. The Health Information Technology has a challenging and exciting future ahead and it would be the honor to be a part of it.

Works Cited

Lynne Thomas Gordon, Bonnie Cassidy (2012, February). *AHIMA Advantage*. Retrieved February 18, 2012, from Welcome to the February 2012 issue of AHIMA Advantage, wrap-up of AHIMA highlights from 2011: <http://www.ahimaadvantage-digital.com/ahimaadvantage/201202#pg1>

[Back to Top](#)

\$500 Scholarship - RHIT Category

“How Will I Use This Degree To Advance the HIM Profession”

An associate’s degree in health information (HIM) will be very important to me. I started out in 2000 looking for a change in careers. What interested me was the coding profession; here my education as a laboratory technician would be a huge asset. Being a laboratory technician gave me knowledge as to why tests are ordered and what they mean. Reading doctor notes and laboratory results could be better understood. While working as a clinical coder at XXXXX XXXXXX Family Physicians, I was fortunate to have learned about the denial of claims. How correct coding saves time, money and valuable resources is important, especially with the economy today. While working at XXXX XXXXX OB/GYN, I found how when a business office is run effectively or ineffectively affects the whole organization. The responsibility of being the only coder and billing employee was interesting. I was able to advance many of my skills in auditing, updating diagnosis codes in coding programs and maintaining provider production logs and stats.

Deciding to go to college was very big step for me and it gave me a whole new avenue of careers to follow that are exciting and demanding. As an older adult I find that I really like the requirement of continuing education, as it has allowed me to peck away at a college degree. To move from coding to the associate’s degree has been very fulfilling and rewarding. I have learned that there is a high demand in the compliance and risk areas, which both have been of interest to me since I became a clinic coder.

If I choose to continue on in the coding world, I would use this degree to improve the relationship between the providers and the HIM department. I feel if the providers could understand the importance of our role, they may document in a better way. If I had the opportunity to have providers and nurses sit with our department for a day, they would see why billing is delayed due to incomplete documentation. They may finish their work more quickly and more completely resulting in billing being submitted faster and more accurately.

If I find a job in either compliance or risk departments, I would use my degree to help an organization be compliant with the regulations that are set forth by all federal and state organizations and the insurance industry. I would be able to show individuals potential documentation hazards that could be used against them legally and ways to improve that type of documentation. With a position in compliance, I could show providers how to document correctly and within the allowable time limits. As an example, long delays between a patient's treatment and documentation can compromise the completeness and accuracy of the medical record, which can put the provider, organization and patient at risk.

An associate's degree would also prove to be very beneficial during this time with the ICD-10 and the major push for electronic records. I would be able to help guide a company to the finish in both of these areas. ICD-10 should provide better reimbursement with the use of more specific codes. The electronic medical record will facilitate better patient care and improved patient access to one's own record. This would also make security a busy area to be in. Making sure that only the patient and the provider can gain access to the record would be challenging.

There is a lot that I could do with my degree that will help in the advancement of the HIM profession. I would be able to show others that a career in HIM can be exciting, challenging and rewarding. We are in an area that is quickly changing. As a certified professional coder and with my seven years of experience coding family practice, OB-GYN, pediatric endocrinology and pediatric infectious disease, I have found that the next level I want to reach is my associate's degree and the registered health information technician credential. I hope for a bachelor's degree and the registered health information administrator credential.

[Back to Top](#)

Scholarship Essay - Katrina Oberhelman - Rasmussen College

\$500 Scholarship - RHIT Category

"How I will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession"

I will use my Health Information Technician degree to help advance the quality of service that our patients receive from the Health Information Management professionals that work within the Home Care Department at HealthEast. The patients that require home care have very little personal contact with the HIM professionals but the work that they do affects the patients' quality of service greatly. When a patient begins home care, they get a packet filled with information and paperwork. Throughout their home care, the patients will continue to fill out paperwork that goes into their medical file.

I would advance the quality of service by making small and simple to large and complex changes. To start, I would improve by making a pamphlet that is easy to understand and explaining the basics of Medicare and Medicaid, the processes that the patient will go through and what to expect from HealthEast. Home care patients have a lot of questions when it comes to their insurance and how their coverage works with follow-up visits, emergencies and medications. I would try and make it possible to create a hotline that is available 24hours a day for patients.

High quality of service does not start in the home; it starts with the HIM professionals that work in the office. To advance the quality of service in the office, I would start by reorganizing the filing area. It is necessary to have an area set up with a filing area that works well with the space available. As well as having a system how the lose paperwork is filed to help prevent misfiles.

A simple way to improve the quality of service is to receive feedback from the patients in home care. I would create a survey to be given to the patients and rate our service. The survey would have questions that can be answered with a rating on a scale of 1-5. The survey can be taken by phone, internet, mail or given by the home care nurse at the time of discharging the patient.

Once I complete the HIT program, I will be continuing my education through Rasmussen for my Bachelors in Health Information Management. I hope to have a life long career with HealthEast in the Home Care Department and provide the best quality of service to all patients in need of home care.

[Back to Top](#)

Scholarship Essay - Brandi Bierbrauer - The College of St. Scholastica

\$1,500 Scholarship - RHIA Category

“How I Will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession”

The College of Saint Scholastica has been known for more than seventy-five years for health information management, and the graduates that enter the field upon degree completion. Two great examples of students advancing the HIM profession are here at Saint Scholastica. Kathy LaTour and Shirley Eichenwald-Maki, Assistant Professors at the college, have advanced the HIM profession in ways only some dream of. Having them at the college and working with them individually, I can see just how important health information management is, what kind of mark we can leave on an organization, and that HIM professionals make a difference in health care. Leaving the college a graduate myself next year, I feel the HIM department will give me the tools necessary to being a successful employee. One of the things I have learned here that I will take away is the essence of community.

Being at this college, it is easy to graduate knowing people not only from the degree of choice, but every other major in-between. Health care professionals, especially those in the HIM department, must be attentive of the views of the other departments. Not only knowing them, but listening to what they have to say and making meaningful connections is crucial because they are the eyes and hears of the organization. As a junior, I have already worked on this in my current position at Wal-Mart. I am a Customer Service Manager of the front end, and a lot of my time is taken up by talking with my associates and customers. Obtaining feedback, giving them updates, and treating them with respect is an essential part of my day, and I can see how this attitude is crucial to health care moving forward. Talking to anyone, from vendors to employees to customers, takes time and patience, and I feel I have

mastered this characteristic to make people comfortable in my store and with me as an individual. Also, it is important at the end of the day to say thanks, and appreciate the people that make up the organization. I can make an impact with what I learn, but it can only be as good as the people that work for the organization, and how they are treated. Overall, I feel this train of thought actually gives a spark to the flame, and gets people excited about working for the company, and eventually in the organization I choose to work for. The ripple effect – or getting some people on board and the rest will follow – works because of this. It can be complicated to “win” people on new concepts, but I feel I can step up to the plate and make things run smoothly and make a real difference wherever I work.

Winning people over on new concepts is only a small percentage of what I can do with my HIM degree once I graduate. I want to make a difference. As a student now, I like the challenges my studies have to offer. I often take roles and positions that give me a chance to learn something new and take responsibility for something better. A great example of this would be my leadership role this academic school year. I was voted last May the position of SHIMA President. Student Health Information Management Association (SHIMA) is the student club on campus that strives to bring awareness about HIM, be involved in community service, and work together for a common goal – the juniors being raising funds for the AHIMA convention each fall. I organize the meetings, and work hard towards coming up with new ideas for volunteering, and get involved on campus to get the health information management name out there.

I feel very fortunate to have discovered this occupation. I have never felt more alive as I learn about what I will eventually be doing in the future. The experiences and knowledge I am gaining are allowing me to really get excited about my journey into this career after graduation. My hope is with completion of my degree, I can make an impact like Shirley and Kathy, and represent Saint Scholastica and the HIM profession proudly.

[Back to Top](#)

Scholarship Essay - Nancy Dean - The College of St. Scholastica

\$1,750 Scholarship - Masters Program Category

"How I will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession"

When I was just graduating from high school, I took a job working in the summer at a nursing home in my hometown as a nurse's aide. This was in the early 1970's and there was not any type of certification for this job – just on-the-job training. I really enjoyed working with the residents – making them laugh and keeping them healthy. I remembered how much I liked that job as I graduated from college and started my career as an information technology professional. Over the years I kept coming back to nursing as a possible new career since I wasn't very happy in IT. In 2008, I got serious about nursing again and started taking nursing courses at a local community college at night while continuing to work in IT during the day. By this time I was already working as the Assistant Director for Information Management for the State of MN's central cancer registry - my current job. I wasn't able to get into the one evening nursing program in my area and all the others required me to quit my day job to attend classes. I was disappointed but soon discovered that health information management programs blended what I already knew about health and IT into a new and exciting field.

I am looking forward to helping my colleagues in the healthcare facilities implement EHR's and launch meaningful use initiatives using my project management and healthcare knowledge and skills. In the age of rising healthcare costs and budget slashing by public payers, I want to contribute to making the conversations clearer by talking "techie" to the business partners and talking "business" to the technology partners. My 30 years in business, IT, and healthcare make me uniquely qualified to do this important work. I recently completed my Certified Tumor Registrar certification to back up my medical records knowledge and experience in the cancer registry. I feel that a MS in Health Information Management will give me the credentials to make my experience more credible and targeted to HIM as opposed to my more general IT background.

I chose St Scholastica because of the program's association with AHIMA. Knowing that I will be qualified to sit for the RHIA exam when I'm finished with the master's degree is important to me. For these reasons, I feel that I would make a great candidate and will contribute to the overall HIM profession. Thanks for your consideration and support!

[Back to Top](#)

LaTour Eichenwald Forum for HIM Leadership

The inaugural LaTour Eichenwald Forum for HIM Leadership was held June 4, 2012 at The College of St. Scholastica, 1200 Kenwood Ave., Duluth, MN 55811. Linda Kloss, former CEO of AHIMA, gave a keynote address about the future of HIM. Ms. Kloss remarked that the HIM profession is on the verge of massive change and called for the HIM professionals to be the leaders of this change. The LaTour Eichenwald Forum for HIM Leadership will serve as an annual event. Retiring CSS HIIM faculty members, Kathy LaTour and Shirley Eichenwald-Maki were recognized for their years of service to CSS and the profession. The event was well attended by both CSS alums and HIM leaders.

[Back to Top](#)

Grace Award

AHIMA announces a new award to recognize outstanding achievement in Health Information Management. The inaugural 'Grace Award' will honor healthcare delivery organizations that have outstanding and innovative approaches in using health information to deliver high quality healthcare. This award is named for founder Grace Whiting Myers. Application deadline is June 30. For more information about the Grace Award, click [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

MHIMA Legal Reference Manual Update: An attorney may sign a subpoena for criminal proceedings

Please take note of the following amendment to Minnesota Rules 22.02 regarding Criminal Proceedings affecting Chapter 4: 4.1.3 of MHIMA's Legal Reference Manual.

Currently MHIMA's 2011 Legal Manual states under Criminal Proceedings "For Minnesota ... subpoenas are

to be issued and signed by the clerk under the seal of the court.”

Effective September 1, 2011, Minnesota Rules 22.02 regarding Criminal Procedure states a subpoena can be issued under the seal of the court **or by an attorney**. Further regarding subpoenas issued by attorneys the rule states:

The attorney must personally sign the completed subpoena on behalf of the court, using the attorney's name. A subpoena issued by an attorney need not bear a seal, but must otherwise comply with the format requirements in subdivision 1. The completed subpoena must include: (a) the attorney's printed name; (b) attorney-registration number; (c) office address and phone number; and (d) the party the attorney represents.”

This amendment only applies to Minnesota Criminal Proceedings. The Legal Reference Manual's subpoena instructions still apply regarding Civil Proceeding and Juvenile Protection Matters. Keep in mind the following regarding subpoenas:

If a health care provider receives a subpoena or court order from another state for medical records, the provider should contact the attorney issuing the subpoena and inform them that Minnesota does not recognize out of state legal requests. However, a properly executed authorization to release information would be honored. If the out-of-state attorney cannot obtain patient authorization, they will need to work through a local attorney or court for a subpoena duces tecum or court order.

Subpoenas to appear before a federal court must be served in the district of the court or within a 100 mile radius of the location where the witness lives and works to be applicable; beyond this scope an objection to the appearance can be made unless reasonable compensation has been assured to the witness appearing [FRCP 45 (b)(2) / FRCP 45 (c)(3)(B)(iii)] (MHIMA 2011 Legal Reference Manual p. 4-2)

For more information refer to Minnesota Rule 22 for Criminal Procedure and Minnesota Administrative Rules 1400.7000 on Subpoenas.

Andrea Heikkinen, RHIA
Co-Chair, MHIMA Legal Reference Manual Committee

[Back to Top](#)

Updated Maximum Charges for Patient Records

The Minnesota Department of Health has published the **Maximum Charges for Patient Records** February 2012, confirming the annual determination of maximum charges for patient records. When section 144.292 of the Minnesota Statutes applies, the maximum charges for 2012 are \$1.27 per page for copy charges and \$16.82 for retrieval fees.

You can obtain a copy of the February 2012 document by clicking [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

MHIMA 2011 Legal Reference Manual

Do you have legal HIM questions? Do you wish there was a convenient reference you could have on your desk to answer many of them? The 2011 MN Legal Reference Manual on CD is ready to help you and is available for purchase!

The manual is a great resource for everyone in the field of HIM, regardless of your work setting. It pertains to all areas of HIM. Various chapters include topics such as health care records, record retention and storage, reporting requirements, legal proceedings and requests, disclosure of health information and patient access, consents, behavioral health records, long term care records, home care and hospice records, ambulatory care records, risk management, HIPAA, research, and medical identity theft. Feel confident in your research and decision making using MHIMA's MN Legal Reference Manual.

The co-chairs of our MN Legal Reference Manual committee are Andrea Heikkinen, RHIA, and Susan Schanno-Foss, RHIT. Email questions pertaining to the Manual or suggestions for improvements in the next edition (coming in 2013) to both [Andrea](#) and [Susan](#).

Attention Students: MHIMA supports students of HIM and offers a special discounted rate for AHIMA students who want to purchase the legal reference manual.

MN Legal Reference Manual pricing:

\$150 MHIMA/AHIMA members (from sales tax-exempt organizations)

\$200 non-members (from sales tax-exempt organizations)

\$90 student members of AHIMA with MN as their designated state and enrolled in a tax-exempt educational program

Individuals ordering from organizations who are not MN sales tax-exempt will be charged MN sales tax in addition to the prices listed above. Tax-exempt organizations must have a copy of their MN sales tax exemption form on file in the MHIMA Executive Director office.

For more information and to order, click [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

MHIMA Coding Roundtable Tool Kits

The MHIMA Coding Roundtable Committee has developed a number of "tool kits" for use by MHIMA members to support coding education and discussion in your facilities and at your regional meetings. All are available on the [Coding & Data Quality](#) button on our website.

If there is a tool kit topic that you'd like to see developed, please let [Vicki Chelf](#) or [Patti Collins Smith](#) know. They are the 2011-2012 Coding Roundtable Chairs for MHIMA.

If you have general coding questions, you are encouraged to use AHIMA's Coding CoPs to post those questions. There's a general coding CoP community for coders as well as several for specific coding areas. These CoPs are a great resource for submitting coding questions and participating in the discussion threads surrounding the questions of others. To participate in these CoPs, click [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)



Advertisement

 Unsubscribe  Communication Preferences

This email was sent to **[:contact_email:]** by **[:queue_from:]**.

Minnesota Health Information Mgmt Association | PO Box 26 | Cromwell, MN | 55726

point blank
TARGETED • EMAIL

