Welcome!

the November 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

Ranelle Bauer, RHIT, MHIMA President

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

As I write this, I am reminded of how thankful I am to be a part of such a dynamic profession! Each and every one of you contributes to our profession and collectively we have much to be thankful for! I am also thankful for all of the hard work going on at the Board and Committee level:

This includes:

- Legal Manual Committee - Updating our MHIMA Legal Resource Manual to be an electronic, continually updated product. We expect this to be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting in April.
- Annual Meeting - Our committee is hard at work on all the details including speakers, exhibitors, activities, and more.
- Audit Committee - Our MHIMA books are being audited by an external
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.

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 members better.

One thing I have learned within the past month is courage! I had a work retreat where we had to find a partner that we didn't really know. Then as a team, had to climb up a ladder to a platform 25 feet in the air (we were harnessed of course). We then had to step onto two separate cables, clasp hands around shoulder height, and step to the other platform that was about 30 feet away on the cables. I honestly didn’t think I could do it (bad knees). But we made it up and on the wire about five feet from the platform before falling. We encouraged each other to keep going. It took trust and courage to do this task. It was all about taking that first step onto the wire.

I encourage you to have COURAGE to take the first step and volunteer. Be part a fantastic organization and wonderful group of people.

I am thankful for all the friends I acquired while volunteering! It has been so rewarding and inspirational!

Ranelle
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.

Updated AHIMA PPE Guide - Professional Practice Experience

AHIMA recently updated the PPE Guide for Professional Practice Experience. This guide provides comprehensive information and best practices to students, academic faculty, HIM programs, and practitioners on the expectations for the professional practice experience that students undertake during their HIM academic program.

ICD-10 Lunch 'n Learn Webinar on ICD-10-PCS

The MHIMA ICD-10 Lunch 'n Learn Series will feature ICD-10-PCS - Case Studies on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 from noon to 1 pm. This is a great way to take advantage of low member pricing. Get several colleagues together in a room with one phone and internet connection, and share the low cost of this webinar. We are asking that the webinar connection not be shared with unpaid registrants. Registration through WebEx is required after payment is made through Telusys.

Visit our Online Learning page on the MHIMA website to download the registration flyer. Click here to register securely online.

The MHIMA Member in the Spotlight for November is Heather Hodgson, RHIA

Title: Health Information Coordinator

I wear many hats as the HI Coordinator at Bigfork Valley Hospital (Critical Access Hospital). I help supervise the department of three employees, but also
This update includes greater emphasis on distance education programs and examples of possible sites and project work in non-traditional HIM settings. In addition, the guide contains information on PPE content and length, the importance of work behaviors, and student feedback and advocacy projects.

If you are interested in hosting a student in a professional practice experience, or want to learn more about the HIM education process or access the PPE guide on our MHIMA website, click here.

Staying Connected with MHIMA

Want to stay connected with MHIMA? Be sure your AHIMA 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 take on their roles when they are absent. (This includes coding, scanning/chart analysis, and release of information.) I think this is great because it helps me REALLY understand what they do every day and helps me answer questions they may have. I do all of our facility’s medical staff credentialing; keeping everything up-to-date that our providers need in order to practice at our facility. I currently do all of the facility’s prior authorizations; which is a task I acquired that is not typically HIM related. I monitor Meditech and the daily routines to ensure that everything is correct/up-to-date. I also maintain our departmental policies and procedures. I help in the quality measures process with our facility by running reports and taking on MNCM reporting (Minnesota Community Measures). Right now I am in the midst of my first implementation process experience with a new module in Meditech. Change is challenging but needed! These are just a few things of the many that I do on a daily basis. Every day is a little different which is what I really like about my job.

I have a B.S. in Health Information Management, minor in Computer Information Systems from The College of St. Scholastica. I have been in my current position since June 2011. I have my RHIA credential. I am also EMT-B certified on the side; it’s not the blood and guts that made me choose HIM as a career! I really enjoy doing the quality measures part of my job (even though I currently take a very small part in this) and I am hoping that I acquire more of this role. Right know there is an RN at our facility that does most of this and I am really interested in helping her out.

I am passionate about the career path I chose and really want to be a part of an organization I can pass my passion on to. I am the current 2012-2013 co-chair for our MHIMA Annual Meeting and am enjoying the learning experience as well as meeting a ton of new people!

I am a volunteer EMT for the Bigfork Ambulance which is so different than my everyday job that I absolutely love it! Being on the ambulance and working in HIM at the hospital lets me see multiple sides of the healthcare world (computer/legal and patient care). I also like to go hunting and fishing, being outside and enjoying northern Minnesota! I am a book nerd and love to read as well as spending as much time with my family as I can.

I was the 2012 Challenge Race Director at our facility. We held a 5k walk/run, 10k and half-marathon. This was like a mini-trial to me as to what it has been like organizing the Annual Meeting for MHIMA. – I couldn’t do it without my partner/co-chair and the rest of the support we have. I love volunteering and
helping out whenever I can.

I think I have grown a lot since I have started working at Bigfork Valley Hospital. I have been able to see many different sides of the HIM world in one location. I recommend getting the small town/facility experience; I have learned so much.

Privacy and Security Bootcamps: HITECH, Meaningful Use, and Beyond

REACH (Regional Extension Assistance Center for HIT for Minnesota and North Dakota) and the Center for Healthcare Innovation at the College of St. Scholastica are hosting a Privacy and Security Bootcamp. Learn from experts the most important steps in assuring a safe and secure electronic environment for maintaining patient information. Gain access to valuable privacy and security tools and resources for conducting risk assessments and handling breach investigations and notifications available through the HealthSmart e-Box, a resource developed by the Center for Healthcare Innovation.

Presenters will include: Danika Brinda, MA, RHIA, CHPS; Janelle Wapola, MA, RHIA; and Ryan Sandefer, MA, CPHIT. Speakers subject to changes or additions.

Who should attend: Hospital and clinic EHR/meaningful use teams, CFOs, CIOs, IT/IS directors, administrators and managers. Boot camps are intended for providers, clinics and hospitals only.

Where: College of St. Scholastica, Duluth Campus, Duluth, MN
When: November 30, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Cost: REACH participants: $25; non-REACH participants: $199
Register: Online registration or call Joseph Janchar at 218-625-4974
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.

Stay Up-to-Date with MN e-Health

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

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

Save the Date for 2013 Annual Meeting at Grand Casino Hotel in Hinckley, Minnesota!

MHIMA's 2013 Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 24 -26, 2013 at the Grand Casino Hotel in Hinckley, Minnesota.  The Annual Meeting Committee is already working hard on the plans for the meeting. Heather Hodgson, RHIA and Katie O'Hearn, RHIA, CCS-P are heading up the committee this year as Co-Chairs, with assistance by Past Co-Chairs, Jen Callendar, RHIA and Brielle Wolf, RHIA.

The theme for next year's annual meeting is "HIM:Champions of Change."

The Call for Speakers is posted on the MHIMA Website.  If you know of any individuals who can present on a recent project or current topic pertinent to HIM members, please contact Katie O'Hearn or Heather Hodgson.

Mark your calendars now!

A Message from our Board:

In the August Uplink, it was communicated that despite the many successes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Board did not meet its budget goals, primarily due to increasing food and audiovisual rental costs that were underestimated.  MHIMA recognizes the need to plan our annual meeting to reflect the increased costs while providing the best possible value for our members in attendance.

With help from the Marketing & Communications committee, the Board
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!

reviewed annual meeting registration prices of seven other similar states and found the following: a) the average annual meeting price in these states was $365 for a 3-day registration and b) prices in other states’ registration fees did not include the same amount of food that has traditionally been provided at our meeting. As a result of these findings, the Board approved a motion at its September 21st meeting to increase all member registration rates by 10% for the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Also recognizing the need to review vendor registration pricing, the Board received feedback from twelve other states regarding their fees and sponsorship opportunities. After a review of this information, the Board approved a motion at its October 12th meeting to increase the vendor exhibit rates for the 2013 annual meeting by $100 for all registrations.

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the organization and its members to manage the overall budget, including the annual meeting budget. The increases explained above help to ensure that MHIMA is on solid financial ground this year and in the years to come.

Please continue to contact any of the Board Members or the Executive Director with your feedback.

Christina Wallner, RHIA
MHIMA Secretary
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.


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.