Welcome!

Welcome to the September 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

Well, this is a busy time of year! I just sent my son Josh off to his first day of middle school! He also started hockey this week. It seems to only get busier!

The delegates are gearing up to head to Chicago for Fall Team Talks and the AHIMA National Convention. We are also in the middle of budget planning. This has been challenging this year. We had some lengthy meetings to come to a more conservative budget.

One big budget area that we are always looking to adjust has been the Annual Meeting that will be held in April. Sometimes people ask me what all goes into planning the Annual Meeting. Here is my best to describe what is involved in planning.

The first thing we look at when visiting a venue is space. Our meeting has grown in the past few years. This is not a bad thing. This is actually great! We are looking for spaces that can hold 400+ people. We also look to see if they...
will discount meeting rooms. We also look for hotels that are close in proximity and that are affordable.

Secondly, we look at food choices. With the economy not greatest, food costs have risen. This has been a huge impact to our budget. For example, last year we did not serve soda. It would have cost us $3.00 per can! Now multiple that by 525 people per break. If everyone got one can, that would have cost us an extra $18,000 for one meeting. We are taking a hard look at this year’s food costs, too!

Thirdly, we look for great speakers that will speak for a relatively low cost. We have been lucky and have had some fantastic speakers that have had no cost. Most keynote speakers do charge a fee— anywhere from $1,000 to $10,000.

Also, production and printing of the agendas, save the date cards, and other paper communication. Most of this cost us a few thousand dollars.

There is a lot more that we can show! My point is that we are looking to be fiscally responsible with the MHIMA budget which will be approved at the September 21 Board meeting.

Have a great fall!

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ICD-10 Lunch 'n Learn Webinars Resume!

The MHIMA ICD-10 Lunch 'n Learn Series resumes beginning with An In-Depth Look at Chapter 9 - Circulatory System in ICD-10-CM on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 12 noon to 1 pm.

This is a great way to take advantage of low member pricing. Get several colleagues together in a room with a phone and a computer, and share the low cost of this webinar.
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 register, click here.

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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

Visit our Online Learning page on the MHIMA website to download the registration flyer. Registration can be completed on line through the Telusys payment system, using Visa or Mastercard, or by mail, using the registration flyer.

One (1) CEU is available which counts towards your AHIMA ICD-10 coding requirement.

CMS has postponed the implementation of ICD-10 to October 1, 2014, but it is not too early to begin planning and educating your coding staff.

Watch for additional ICD-10 topics throughout the year.

Archived copies of previous ICD-10 Lunch ’n Learn webinars are also available for purchase.

The MHIMA Member in the Spotlight for September is Mark S. Dietz, RHIA

Mark Dietz, RHIA is the President of Dietz Healthcare Management Consulting.

I have been an independent healthcare management consultant for over 20 years and have worked at over 350 healthcare facilities throughout the United States, United Arab Emeritus (UAE), Australia, Canada, and China. My focus in consulting has been in the following three (3) major areas:

Revenue Cycle Management

-Revenue Cycle/Accounts Receivable Management Assessment: I directed and performed numerous accounts receivable/DNFB management
MHIMA Uplink

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.

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 assessments to evaluate current organization structure, policies and procedures, establish targets by financial class as well as recommend and implement changes for maximizing cash flow and reducing bad debts.

Information Systems

-Automated Information Systems: Directed and facilitated user needs assessments, RFP development, information system vendor selection and negotiation, as well as automated system planning and implementation for Admitting, Coding, DRG and Utilization Management, Health Information Management (HIM), Patient Accounting, and Quality Management. Developed, implemented, and Project management of 20 facilities with the EPIC EHR system.

HIM/Medical Records and Revenue Integrity

- Operational Reviews: Conducted and directed numerous medical records evaluations to improve productivity, efficiency and staffing as well as reduce unbilled accounts.

-Interim Management: Provided management support for HIM, Patient accounting, Registration, Scheduling, Revenue Integrity/Charge Master, Data Analysis and Reporting Departments.

- Revenue Integrity, Charge Capture and Charge Description Master Coding Reviews:
  Directed and performed reviews of the CPT coding contained in the charge master. Interviewed department directors to confirm coding appropriateness identify revenue enhancement opportunities and recommend improvements to the charge capture process.

- Medical Record Coding and Documentation Reviews: Conducted data quality reviews demonstrating higher reimbursement for hospitals under the Diagnoses Related Groups (DRGs) and Outpatient Prospective Payment Categories (OPPS) reimbursement systems and developed continuing coding/documentation improvement programs

- Medical Record Documentation/Reimbursement Education: Presented numerous seminars on Medicare’s Prospective Payment System (PPS), DRGs, APCs and the reimbursement impact related to medical record documentation for physicians, medical students and residents, medical record and utilization
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 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 management personnel.

Quality Improvement/Utilization Management

- Quality Improvement/Quality Management: Assisted clients in the development and implementation of QA programs, which exceed Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

- Utilization Management: Directed and conducted services to evaluate the organizational structure, operations, staffing, productivity measurement and operational effectiveness of the utilization management process. Identified areas to improve efficient use of hospital resources, promote hospital-wide cooperation and support and increase profitability under capitated payor programs.

I have a Bachelor of Science and Art Degrees with Academic Honors in Health Information Management, Graphic Arts and Architecture, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, 1976. I also received my Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) Certification in 1976. Previously, I have worked as the Principal/Director, Health Care Consulting, Deloitte & Touche, Minneapolis, MN; Director of Hospital Data Services, Hospital Utilization Project, Pittsburgh, PA; Instructor, Health Record Administration, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA; Manager, Medical Record Department, Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois and the Financial and Record Consultant, Illinois Masonic Ambulatory Care Center, Chicago, Illinois.

I really like the variety of different consulting activities which I have performed over the years. At times, I can conduct the same piece of work, though the people dynamics and process can be very different though yielding different successful results. I personally get much satisfaction in making a difference in an organization, especially through working with an internal group of people. It feels most satisfying to see an organization make changes which improve operations, enhance better cash flow and revenue, as well as improve their automated systems. Two of my favorite areas of consulting have been developing new functionality and optimizing EHR systems as well as revenue enhancement activities related to the charge master.

One of the strengths of MHIMA has been the diversity of professional backgrounds of its members; but with diversity comes the challenge for
MHIMA's leadership to meet the needs of its members and the various roles in which its members hold. MHIMA has shown great initiative in educating and serving our diverse membership through Lunch and Learns, enhanced communication, as well as being a community leader in healthcare privacy, security and technology. It has done a great job to define the ramifications of legislation and technology to our members and the Minnesota healthcare community. MHIMA has proactively provided guidance to its members to seek new roles, redefine current roles and assist with their various transitions. The strength of an organization lies in its membership. MHIMA, over the years, has encouraged many new and young members to participate and volunteer as well as provide their expertise and "manpower," so the profession can prosper. The association has worked diligently to ensure appropriate diverse professional representation within the leadership and volunteer structure of our state association. MHIMA continues to provide an environment that fosters and promotes mentorship, education, success stories, and support mechanisms which strengthen the HIM profession. It has always been amazing to me to see the dedication and passion of so many HIM professionals, who volunteer their time, to better the profession and its members as well as be recognized as leaders and promote our professional knowledge.

My interests and hobbies include architecture, movies and theater, projects around the house, travelling the world, walking, new restaurants, get-togethers with friends and family, walking the lakes, meeting new and diverse people, as well as "goofing off" with my young great-nephew and niece.

My choice to begin a HIM career was one of the best decisions I ever made. My career path has changed numerous times during my 36-year professional career (even though I am only 38 years old??!!), helping me to focus on the things which I really enjoy. It has provided me great educational and many rewarding personal experiences/growth due to the ever-changing health care and business environment. I have been constantly rewarded and motivated by so many phenomenal and dedicated HIM professionals, which I have come in contact, either through my consulting or volunteer activities. Many of them have become good friends over the years and developed into life-long relationships. I have learned so much and personally grown from each of them. They have provided a great support network for me to "see how they do things" in their facilities and to ask questions.

The HIM profession, MHIMA and AHIMA have given me so much during my professional career, including a professional community in which to belong and a
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 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!

Updated Maximum Charges for Patient Records

The Minnesota Department of Health has published the Maximum Charges for Patient Records.
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.