INDUSTRY TIDBITS

“The Health Information Management Profession”

By: Monte Handley

We present some interesting tidbits of information on the Health Information Management field, from the early history of hard copy files to the computerization or EHR today. For instance, did you know that?

- According to a national survey in 2009, more than half of the directors and managers in the HIM field had held their position 20 years or more?
- Eighty-eight percent of directors and managers reported they had earned a college degree—as compared to 65 percent in the profession on the whole?
- The concept of the American Health Information Management Association was conceived all the way back in 1928?
- Back in 1938 AHIMA was called The American Association of Medical Record Librarians and those in the profession were known as “Librarians”?
- The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) was organized in 1961 at the Georgia Institute of Technology as the Hospital Management Systems Society (HMSS), an independent, unincorporated, non-profit, voluntary association of individuals, and today there are over 35,000 members?
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in HIM are projected to grow much faster than the average or about 20% by 2018?
- That Medical records and health information technicians held about 172,500 jobs in 2008, and about 39 percent of jobs were in hospitals?
- That as of December 31, 2010, there were 25,047 Registered Health Information Techs and 14,249 Registered Health Information Administrators?
- The passing rate in 2010 for first time takers of the RHIA was 77% and 76.4% for the RHIT first timers?
- Thanks to the current RHIT exam beta test format which ended on March 1, immediate scoring is now available? That means you will have your “passing score” in your hand before you leave the test center.
- The cost for an RHIT exam is currently $299.00, but only $229.00 for AHIMA members (a savings of $70.00 for just joining AHIMA)?
HIMSS 2012 Annual Convention

By Monte Handley

They say “what goes on in Vegas stays in Vegas” but not this time. Last week I attended the HIMSS 2012 annual convention which was held at the Venetian Hotel and Convention Center in Las Vegas Nevada. I am a member of the HIMSS Southern California Chapter and this was my first attendance at the national convention. For those of you who are not familiar with HIMSS (Health Information Management Systems Society), they are a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality, safety, cost-effectiveness, and access to healthcare through the use of information technology and management systems. HIMSS includes over 35,000 individual members including current students who can join for $30.00.

The cost of attending last week’s convention was $1,200 for regular members, but only $120 for student members. With such a deal for students, I had to attend. Anyone and everyone who has something to do with healthcare information were there including members from the ONC, CMS, AHIMA, SCHIA, to name a few. While there I was able to interview with companies that had job openings for HIT, attend any of over 300 seminars on topics ranging from the delay of “ICD 10” to the topic of “How to get employed”, and walk around and meet vendors from major healthcare companies. The HIMSS convention was also very good for networking and I was able to make many contacts with HIM leaders of many large healthcare organizations.

Although I didn’t have a chance to hear all of them speak, there were some very interesting keynote speakers including Biz Stone (Co-founder of Twitter), Farzad Mostashari, MD (National Coordinator for HIT), Terry Moran (co-anchor of ABC News “Nightline”), and Dana Perino (Former White House Press Secretary). I had a great time, and I will definitely try and make HIMSS 2013 which will be held in New Orleans, LA.
Universal Career Advice

I just finished reading an excellent book titled “30 Lessons for Living: Tried and True Advice from the Wisest Americans” written by gerontologist Karl Pillemer, Ph.D. In my opinion, this book is a “must read” for all, especially young people. The lessons are from “experts” who, according to Pillemer, are the oldest Americans (over the age of sixty-five) who “have one unique source of knowledge that the rest of us do not: they have lived their lives.” (Pillemer, 2011) Although the book is not specific to our industry (e.g., HIT, CIM, Coding, etc.), I have chosen to share “the five lessons for finding satisfying work and making the most of a career” because this topic seems to be the most popular among HCSPC members. They include:

- **Choose a career for the intrinsic rewards, not the financial ones.** The biggest career mistake people make is selecting a profession based only on financial earnings.
- **Do not give up looking for a job that makes you happy.** According to the experts, persistence is the key to finding a job you love.
- **Make the most of a bad job.** If you find yourself in a less-than-ideal work situation, do not waste the experience.
- **Emotional intelligence trumps over every kind.** Even the people in the most technical professions have their careers torpedoed because they lack the interpersonal skills necessary to succeed in the workplace.

By: Anthony Pineda

Routes to the Cancer Tumor Registrar (CTR) Credential

Our CIM Program leads toward eligibility for the Cancer Tumor Registrar (CTR) Credential. There are different paths toward eligibility:

**Route 1A** Completion of the CIM AS Degree

**Route 2A** Completion of the CIM Certificate plus additional units totaling a minimum of 60 college-level credits; Route B) 1,950 hours of experience in the Cancer Registry field AND a minimum of 60 college-level credits INCLUDING two semesters of Human Anatomy and Physiology (from SBCC, the acceptable courses are BMS 146, HIT 204, and CIM 125).

The CIM Department requirements are the same for both the CIM AS Degree and Certificate. The incorporate 47 semester units. Here they are in their recommended order:

HIT 135 Basic Medical Terminology
BMS 146 Human Form and Function

COMP 101 Introduction to Computer Applications
CIM 100 Registry Organization and Operations
HIT 101 Intro. to Health Information Management
HIT 204 Basic Pathophysiology
CIM 125 Cancer Disease Management
CIM 201 Abstracting Principles and Practice I
CIM 150 Oncology Coding and Staging Systems
CIM 202 Abstracting Principles and Practice II
CIM 225 Cancer Patient Follow-up
CIM 250 Cancer Statistics and Epidemiology
HIT 240 Health Care Quality Management
MGMT 101 Introduction to Management
CIM 275 CIM Practicum

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** CIM 201 is only offered in the Fall, CIM 202 and 250 are only offered in the Spring.

By: Gwyer Schuyler
To provide an avenue for HIT/CIM students to network and support each other in their academic and career pursuits. Because the HIT/CIM programs are fully online, students have limited opportunities to meet and connect with other students. This club will use web-based technologies to create an online student community of support.

Club Description:

HIT/CIM Student Peer Club
Santa Barbara City College
Attn: HIM/CIM Department
721 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
Email: sbcc.hscc@gmail.com

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According to the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) on their FAQ page, “...the tremendous potential for growth in government agencies, insurances, pharmaceutical and other health care industries as accurate, timely data increasingly impacts cancer control efforts. Cancer registrars who possess management and administrative skills, knowledge of medical sciences, programming, database management, data retrieval and analysis will find a ready market for those skills. (http://www.ncra-usa.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3301)

For more info about the Cancer Tumor Registrar credential, visit www.ncra-usa.org.

2011-2012 HCSPC Admin Committee Members
Academic Club Advisor: Gwyer Schuyler

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Vice President: Gagandeep Bal
Treasurer: Alice Yan
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Marcia Coye
Kim Graff
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In the News: “Feds to Postpone ICD-10 Compliance Date” (from Gregg Biesch, ModernHealthcare.com, February 16, 2012)

The federal government plans to delay the date that healthcare organizations have to comply with the ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes.

A new compliance date will be announced during a formal rulemaking process to push back the deadline from the one scheduled Oct. 1, 2013.

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the move in a news release issued a day after acting CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner said that the CMS “would reexamine the time frame.” Tavenner made the comment to reporters after addressing a Washington conference of the American Medical Association, which has sought relief from the looming deadline.

“We have heard from many in the provider community who have concerns about the administrative burdens they face in the years ahead,” Sebelius said in the release. “We are committing to work through the rulemaking process, with the provider community, to reexamine the pace at which HHS and the nation implement these important improvements to our healthcare system.”

Note: HHS issued a revised news release Thursday morning that omits all references to rulemaking. The release dated Feb. 15 has been removed from the HHS website.