ICD-10 Implementation

By Gwyer Schuyler

So the decision has finally been made. ICD-10 will be implemented in October 2014. What does this mean to students?

First and foremost, the CCA, CCS and RHIT Credential exams will shift over to cover ICD-10 beginning six months before implementation – in April 2014.

In terms of academic planning, all HIT AS Degree and Medical Coding Specialist Certificate students should plan to take HIT 202 and HIT 203, our ICD-10 classes, unless you are on track to graduate at the end of Spring 2013 or Summer and take the exam prior to April 2014.

Want to learn more about ICD-10? Here’s your chance! MARK YOUR CALENDARS! On Wednesday, October, 17, from 12-1 pm Pacific time, join our faculty online to hear a discussion of ICD-10 during our first lunchtime webinar. More details to follow with steps to join the discussion.

Healthcare: How to Link the Generations

By Jon Mertz

Originally from a farm in South Dakota, author Jon Mertz is currently vice-president of marketing for a healthcare software company and has worked in various marketing and business development roles for technology companies including Deloitte, IBM, and BMC Software. Mertz earned his BA in Government & International Affairs at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and his MBA at The University of Texas, in Austin. He has also worked as a political appointee in Washington, DC, for U.S. Senator James Abdnor, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and an agency in The White House. His award winning articles are on various topics that include leadership, healthIT, and patient engagement.

We have extremes in how we manage our healthcare. Some generations have little or no experience with technology. Sending an email can be a challenge for some. Other generations, especially the Millennials, are all about technology, especially if it’s mobile.

Put this in terms of years, and we can begin to see why.

On the one end of the spectrum, there are the Traditionalists and Baby Boomers, spanning the years 1900 to 1964. Familiarity with technology increases as you move closer to 1964, but it did not exist in their formative years. The next generations, Generation X to Millennials, span from 1965 to 2000. Comfort levels with technology increases significantly with these generations, as it began to take hold during the work years for Generation X and is all encompassing for Millennials.

There are gaping holes between the generations, in terms of technology use.

The healthcare industry is undergoing a technology revolution of sorts. Govern-
They Just Keep Getting Better!

By Anthony Pineda

It seems like the resources available for student members of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) have just had an overhaul. I recently participated in the free Career Prep Webinars and learned so much about what I thought I already knew. Did I mention that they were free? As if the new online HIM Career Map and Career Assist: Job Bank were not enough to keep me busy, a new “students only” e-newsletter will be landing in the email inboxes of AHIMA student members beginning this month.

In the recent issue of the Student Connection, Scott Mackenzie, Senior Director, Member Engagement and Strategy describes the Student E-Alert as an e-newsletter that delivers “hot industry news along with relevant updates on student resources and topics.”

AHIMA delivers some of the best tools to help prepare students for successful careers in health information technology (HIT). Find out more about the benefits for students members by clicking here or visit http://www.ahima.org/membership/student_benefits.aspx. To join AHIMA online, visit https://www.ahimastore.org/ProductDetailMembership.aspx.

Mackenzie, S. (2012). New resources to help you succeed. Student Connection, Fall 2012. Used with Permission from Scott Mackenzie/AHIMA.

The number of textbooks and the amount of money we spend each semester always leaves me dumbfounded. Especially, when we are forced to buy the latest edition (e.g., ICD-9 coding books). I extol all teachers who are mindful of this and try their best to choose textbooks that are easy to access and affordable. I do, however, like having the textbooks to use as a point of reference for later use but usually find that there are few that cut through the regular healthcare gobbledygook and jargon. I am not speaking of clinical terms like those found in an anatomy text. I am talking about terms like HIPAA, COBRA, HMO, PPO, out of network, share-of-cost, or indemnity. Health information technology or HIT (as we know it) is now healthIT in some circles. With all this confusion, it is always refreshing to come across a resource that is clear, concise, and easy to understand.

The Health Care Handbook by Elisabeth Askin and Nathan Moore is a must read and is highly recommended for students. In the same way that The Joy of Cooking belongs in every kitchen, The Health Care Handbook belongs in every household. Two students with firsthand insight wrote this little gem about what students do not know, what they want to know, and what they need to know. The goal of the book is to present broad facts, concepts, and analysis of the health care system in the United States. Subjects are brought to life with helpful examples and humor rather than a regurgitation of concepts, definitions, and facts. Moore and Askin do their best to steer away from personal opinions and include areas that are uncertain and controversial (e.g., the Affordable Care Act).

If you are a new student, this book will answer most of your questions about the industry.
ment incentive programs are in place for care providers to adopt electronic health records (EHRs) and offer patients their data in an electronic form. Providers, because of the incentives, are highly motivated to deliver data electronically to their patients.

Now, the questions are these:

- How will the Traditionalists respond to: “Your lab results will be available on our portal”?
- How will Baby Boomers deal with glucose monitors on their mobile device?
- How will Generation X work with collecting and managing their medical data or the medical data of their parents?
- How will Millennials accept not being able to use their phone to check out at a physician’s office?

The answer to these questions will be very challenging for some, frustrating for others, and annoying for those accustomed to easy technology interactions.

The better question becomes: How do we bridge the gap between the generations?

It is a question aimed directly at and added to “Where is your health leadership?” The answer may be rather simple. We need to reach out and work across the generations.

- For sons and daughters, setting up accounts for your aging parents and showing them how to access certain information may help.
- For parents and grandparents, it will be asking youth for assistance and guidance on how all this healthcare “stuff” works on their mobile devices.

It is about reaching out to help each other, bringing extreme patience to our interactions. Here are five suggestions:

1. Spend time with your grandparents and parents, asking them about current health concerns and health lessons learned over the years.
2. Find out if the elderly in your community know how to email confidently or how to connect with family and friends on Facebook.
3. Ask your older relatives how their physicians are wanting to engage them electronically and then help them and answer their questions.
4. Show other generations how you are tracking your own health and managing your physical well-being.
5. Discuss the use of healthcare technology, mobile apps, and digital devices with different generations in the workplace. It is not a discussion about private health issues; it is a chat on how to better use technology to manage personal health.

Linking generations is about engaging conversations and exchanging information. Most importantly, it is about sharing experiences across the ages. We need to invest the time.

How have you bridged the generational healthcare technology gap? What suggestions would you add?
ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

By Gagan Bal

The Santa Barbara City College HIT/CIM Student Peer Club (HCSPC) is always seeking highly motivated students who are looking to complement their educational experience and help other students in the process. If you would like to become involved in the development, management, and administration of the HCSPC, you should consider becoming a part of our Club Advisory Committee.

We need enthusiastic and committed HIT/CIM and Medical Coding students to volunteer their time to accomplish club tasks. If you are interested in joining our Advisory Committee and would like to meet and get to know your peers, please contact me at sbcc.hcspc@gmail.com. Please include a short sentence about why you would like to join our team.

DISCUSS ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE IN OUR HCSPC Google Group

Access Google Groups on your Android™ or Apple® iOS device by pointing your mobile browser to: https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups&hl=en#! or send the group an email at sbccs-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc@googlegroups.com.

Information about ICD-10 is here!