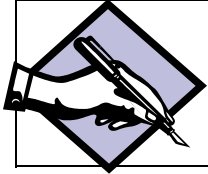




THE NORTHLINE

February 2004

Winter 2004 Issue



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Anita Sommerfeld, RHIA



Believe it or not!
Spring is coming!

I cannot believe another year is almost gone and that the AKHIMA Annual meeting is only 7 weeks away. I hope all of you will be able to attend. The Program Committee has worked very hard to provide us with national speakers on a variety of topics. In addition, with a lot of talking to the right people AHIMA has agreed to bring their "Getting Practical with Privacy & Security" seminar to Anchorage. It will be held at the Sheraton Hotel just prior to our meeting. I sincerely hope many of you will be able to attend this dynamic seminar.

Our Board has been working on many items this year. Terry Fults is doing a great job in organizing the Treasurers position. I am happy to say that the Board is working on some financial policies which I will have Terry discuss during our annual meeting in April.

The Board is also waiting for some guidance from AHIMA concerning future bylaws revisions.

A big change that AHIMA has made is the development of an Affiliation Agreement between AHIMA and the Component State Associations. This agreement will standardize core services, membership categories and conflicts of interest to name a few. The Board has also been working on Board Position Descriptions. We are hoping that this will give future Board members a clear idea of their responsibilities.

Please remember that this is your association and we need your input. An active and involved membership makes a strong association.

OFFICIAL CALL TO



This is the **Official Call to Meeting of the 35th Annual Business Meeting** of the Alaska Health Information Management Association. The Business meeting will be held Thursday, April 22, 2004, during the luncheon break. The conference will be held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, Alaska on April 21, 22, & 23, 2004. The Program Committee has put together a program of varied and timely information. Please take advantage of the opportunity to expand your knowledge, and network with other HIM professionals, both personally and professionally. Also, please take a moment to thank the Program Committee for all of their hard work in putting this program together.

Please take note of the change in our Annual Silent Auction. You will find a display at the back of the conference room at the BP Energy Center. Take a moment to peruse the items for auction. Bids may be placed at any time during breaks in the conference schedule, and winners will be announced at Friday's lunch.

Regretfully, I am unable to attend this year's conference. I know you will enjoy networking and will benefit from our outstanding speakers. Have a great stay in Anchorage!

HEALTH FAIR?

Spring time means health fairs will be coming. Plan to participate in your local health fair by supplying information on HIPAA, privacy rights, advance directives, or other key HIM related issues.

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EDITOR: Marianne Dailey

NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY GOALS—Marianne Dailey, RHIT, CPHQ

Patient safety has always been a focus of healthcare providers and organizations. However, with increasing publicity surrounding major errors in the provision of healthcare, national agencies and organizations have focused more attention on patient safety specific issues.

In 2003, JCAHO published their first set of National Patient Safety Goals (NPSG). In 2004, they furthered their efforts by adding to the list of NPSGs and incorporating an emphasis on them during the survey process. Feedback from organizations surveyed in 2004 (under the new tracer methodology) have reported a significant change in surveyor process, with a much stronger focus on patient safety and infection control.

Recommendations are to provide education to all staff on what the NPSGs are and how the organization is working to improve safety related to the NPSGs. Surveyors may inquire of housekeepers or registration staff if they are aware of the NPSGs, and how they contributing to the organization's efforts. It may be wise for every department to review the NPSG and discuss how they fit in to NPSG compliance.

JCAHO's National Patient Safety Goals include having processes for:

- Prohibited abbreviations
- Reading back verbal orders or critical lab values
- 2 patient identifiers
- Surgical site verification

For more information on National Patient Safety Goals, see the link:

http://www.jcaho.org/accredited+organizations/patient+safety/04+npsg/04_npsg.htm

ALASKA REMOVES PHYSICIAN SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT FOR NURSE ANESTHETISTS

Alaska has become the tenth state in less than two years, and the third state to recently opt out of a federal physician supervision requirement for nurse anesthetists, according to a report in AONE e-News Update, published by the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

The opt-out is effective immediately. North Dakota and Washington became the eighth and ninth states, respectively, to take this course of action. Other states that have opted out are Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Kansas.

The anesthesia care rule that enables states to opt out of the supervision requirement was published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in the Federal Register on Nov. 13, 2001. The rule allows a governor to notify CMS in writing of the state's desire to be exempt from the supervision requirement for certified registered nurse anesthetists after the governor meets the following prerequisites: consults with the state's boards of medicine and nursing, determines that opting out of the requirement is consistent with state law, and decides that it is in the best interests of the state's citizens.

2nd YEAR DIRECTOR REPORT - Cathy Gross, RHIT

In the two years that I have served on the Board, I think chairing the Program Committee for the upcoming conference and the Fall 2003 workshop have been my biggest, but most rewarding challenges. Bringing our membership together for learning is the most important function of this association. The hard work and decision making of past board members is now evident in the diverse programs and speakers we are able to bring to you. As always, it will be good to see some of the familiar faces, and hopefully many new ones as well.

This past July, I attended the Leadership Conference and Team Talks in Chicago with Ann Waters. This was a very interesting and informative educational opportunity for us. We have taken the information presented at this conference and are putting these processes into place within our organization.

Alaska was in the top three states for increased percentage of membership this past year. Because of this, I was asked to give a brief presentation at the Chicago meeting on how we had accomplished this. I felt that this was a great opportunity for recognition of AKHIMA and what we have achieved, and was honored to represent our membership in this capacity.

2004 ANNUAL AKHIMA CONFERENCE

Don't delay—get registered today! This Conference is **PACKED** with speakers, topics and opportunities to network with your associates

Registration: 7:30 – 8:00 at the Residence Inn,
moves to the BP Center from 8:10 – 8:30.

April 21 Pre-Conference Coding Workshop

Peggy Hapner, RHIT, CCS CPT Coding: Topics, Tips & Traps

Janie Miller, RHIT, CCS Coding Roundtable: Brainstorming & Planning Session (5:30-7:30PM)

April 22 Conference Day 1

Keith Olinek, MA RHIA, CHP AHIMA Update Project Management

Cheri Rains, CCS, CCS-P ICD-10 Update

Carol Liberty, MS, RHIA UAS Privacy Certificate

Marianne Dailey, RHIT, CPHQ 2004 IM Standards & Survey Process

Craig Clapper, PE, CQM Topic to be announced

April 23 Conference Day 2

Keith Olinek, MA RHIA, CHP Document Imaging

Rick Yeary, US MedTrans Outsourcing Transcription

Craig Clapper, PE, CQM Topic to be announced

Barbara Seitz, RHIA, CHP AHIMA Privacy Certification HIPAA Q&A

Michelle Cassano Diabetes Update

Brenda Stewart, RN Organ Procurement & Records Disclosure/HIPAA

Childcare is not provided during the meeting. Please make prior

ACCOMMODATIONS THAT ARE CLOSE

Residence Inn Reservations: 800-314-0781 (Mention AKHIMA for discount)

Studio Suite \$ 116 + Tax

1 Bedroom Suite \$ 125 + Tax

2 Bedroom Suite \$ 143 + Tax

Rooms must be reserved by April 1st for discounted rates!

Springhill Suites Phone 907-729-0604 (ask for Megan)

A little more than walking distance, contact hotel for shuttle availability.

\$ 94 + Tax

Best Western Golden Lion Reservations 1-800-246-8357 (Mention AKHIMA for discount)

(Across the street from the BP Energy Center)



NOT SO SILENT AUCTION



Our silent auction is back again this year! We have made a couple of changes. We will have items set up at the BP Energy during conference hours. You may bid during any break in the conference. Doors close at 5:00 p.m.

Winners will be announced at the end of lunch on Friday!

If you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Terry Fults terry@akhima.org

GETTING PRACTICAL WITH PRIVACY AND SECURITY

AHIMA is proud to present *Getting Practical with Privacy and Security*, April 19-20, 2004 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel in Anchorage. This 2-day seminar brings you up-to-date information and guidelines for accurate implementation of HIPAA mandated practices. Presenters are Carol Ann Quinsey, RHIA, CHPS, AHIMA and Tom Walsh, CISSP, Tom Walsh Consulting, LLC.

For complete seminar and registration information, call (800) 335-5535, or visit www.ahima.org/privacy.

This seminar is sponsored in part by AHIMA.

www.akhima.org

Visit us at

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