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Editor's Note



By:
Sherisse Monteiro, RHIT

To keep Connect fresh and new, I have chosen to step down as the Connect Newsletter Editor and recruit a new editor. I would like to thank the MaHIMA Board for all the support over the last year. Their tireless efforts are instrumental in the day to day operations of MaHIMA and to this quarterly newsletter. I want to also thank the student editorial advisory board, Julianne Blanch, Janene Brome and Wendy Zagroski. They stepped up and dedicated time in their busy schedules to edit articles and give MaHIMA insight on how we can better serve students.

The current assistant Connect newsletter editor, Laura Caravetta will be the new editor. Laura graduated with a bachelor's of Science in Health Information Management from Davenport University in Michigan. She is currently working towards her master degree in public health with a concentration in policy analysis at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Laura is a current co-worker of mine at Brigham and Women's Hospital holding a position in the HIPAA Privacy Office as a HIPAA Privacy Specialist. I am more than confident in Laura's capabilities and commend her for stepping up to take on this responsibility.

I recently passed the RHIT exam and feel an even greater responsibility to volunteer time to MaHIMA as a credentialed member. I will continue to be a part of the Communications Committee and let it guide me to other volunteer opportunities. My journey from a student volunteer to a credentialed volunteer has been rewarding and I hope my story inspires others. Working with MaHIMA has been and will continue to be my privilege. Thank you!

Assistant Editor:
Laura Caravetta

Student Editorial Advisory Board:
Julianne Blanch
Janene Brome
Wendy Zagroski

TOP



Calendar of Events:

MaHIMA Western MA
Meeting; October 26, 2012;
Baystate Health Systems,
Holyoke, MA

MaHIMA Dot Wagg
Memorial Legislative
Seminar; November 9,
2012, Dedham Holiday Inn,
Dedham, MA

Beacon Hill Day,
May 2012

Photo on the grand stair-
case, State House, Boston

Congratulations
to our newly
credentialed
members:

Maud Lawrence, CCA
Colleen Norton, CCS
Diane Shayne, CCA

On the Web at
MaHIMA.org:

Nurses encouraged to ask
for their own Electronic
Health Records

MaHIMA takes AHIMA CSA
Award

Current job postings in the
MaHIMA Job Bank

President's Message

By: Linda Young, JD, RHIA



This past summer was in fact one of the warmest summers I can remember. If you love the sun like me, you probably found yourself pleasantly surprised when this weather we had continued from one week to the next and then again to the next. As nice as it was, some days I found myself taking a lot of extra precaution to protect my skin from over exposure and getting too much sun too fast. I love have a little tan but this was one of those summers where you had to be vigilant about taking it slow!

In a similar respect, the MaHIMA board has been quite busy in its efforts to recruit and train a new Administrative Director (AD). This was a very well thought out and planned process. We had many excellent candidates, but we were vigilant and took it slow enough to find just the right fit... after all Karen O'Donnell has left us with very big shoes to fill! Her work and commitment in building the Association's central office to what it is today is beyond describable. Yet I am pleased to announce that on October 1, 2012, a new Administrative Director, Elisa Pelchat has begun training on how to operate the MaHIMA Central Office. Karen has stayed on to assist Elisa in this effort and we expect Elisa to be working independently very soon. Please stay tuned for information related to the central office address as this will change. E-mail and phone numbers are expect to remain the same.

As with the continuously good weather this summer past, I have been pleasantly and continuously surprised in my first three months as President at all of the amazing things coming down the pipeline! As the Summer has ended and Fall has begun, so too is MaHIMA entering into a new season. MaHIMA is experiencing a dramatic transformation. This

exists on many levels, not just with the AD position but in our commitment to our strategic initiatives. Our goal for this year to build and strengthen our association through diversity has been an ongoing effort that will continue over time. MaHIMA can achieve and sustain a high level of recognition in the industry by ensuring that we have reached out to as many potential members as possible. This will broaden the scope of our internal knowledge base allowing MaHIMA to position itself as a stronger resource in the healthcare industry than ever before. One area we are focused on is with students because they are our future. Their broadened skill levels will inject a value added wave of knowledge into this era of the electronic medical record. Another effort to which we have committed is to align our CSA with other Professional CSA's such as the local chapter of HIMSS. We are also taking a different approach to the way we glean input from you, our members in order to navigate and educate effectively for you.

In order to steer this transformation safely we have to look at our current operating state, compare that to our desired future state and determine if any changes are necessary in each core area. I can assure you that each of your delegates along with their committees and other members of the board have taken a strong look at our current state and already made recommendations for change.

1.Susan Pepple, (Awards) has been working with the awards committee on re-structuring/renaming specific awards and making necessary changes to each award, its purpose and time-lines for granting the awards.

2.Jeanne Fernandes, (Communications) has been working with the communication committee on our marketing efforts (including last year's student brochure which won an AHIMA award!) and making massive strides in the way we can

offer educational sessions through WebEx.

3.Ellen MacMullen, (Legislative) and the Legislative Committee has worked hard on CSA collaborations and tailoring the Dot Wagg program and Hill Day to stay in line with our strategic goals and the needs of our members.

4.Diana Lindo, (Education) and the education committee have given a great deal of thought and dedication to developing the best educational programs possible to our members.

The list is long and as the year goes on, I will keep you posted on all of the tremendous efforts that others have also undertaken to make our association stronger than ever!

In July, I had the opportunity to participate in the AHIMA Leadership Symposium in Chicago. This was a 3-day meeting that provided leadership education. During the symposium, AHIMA announced that it was changing the structure of the House of Delegates and took a vote on their recommended structure. This vote passed a change that would create two new positions, a "House Team member" and an "Envisioning Collaborative Member". The meeting validated the fact that our local CSA is not alone in a time of transformation. This is a wonderful opportunity for each CSA to embrace the new AHIMA change. This last week, I made the trip to Chicago the annual convention and House of Delegates. In August, delegated voted on-line on two House Action Item: Privacy & Security Resolution and the MPI Resolution, so no voting took place in Chicago this year. Although the educational component was valuable the fact that we will be voting on-line has led us to review our budget and re-evaluate to number of MaHIMA delegates that will attend this in the future. This is just another facet in the current/future state analysis we must compel



President's Message

By: Linda Young, JD, RHIA

Continued from page 2...

Both the Symposium and House of Delegates was very informative and we were able to network and share ideas with peers from the other state component organizations. More information about these sessions can be found on the AHIMA web site.

Looking forward, there are many plans in the works for educational and networking opportunities:

- Our previously announced, newly updated version of the Medicolegal Guide is still available! This great resource has been updated and is available in both paper and CD versions. Check the MaHIMA website for information about ordering and pricing. A pre-publication discounted rate is available for members for a limited time.
- October 26th - Western MA Fall Meeting
- November 9th - Dot Wagg Memorial Legislative Seminar
- November 16 AHIMA Coder Workforce Training
- January 25, 2013 MaHIMA Winter Meeting and Coding Seminar
- May 6-8, 2013 NE HIMA Annual Convention

And many more 'webinars' to come to members! We hope that this new 'meeting at your desk' option will be helpful in offering more sessions in specialty topics in an affordable and convenient way for members.

Please remember that MaHIMA members who purchase the on-line Anatomy

& Physiology Education program offered by Barry Libman, Inc will receive a discount. The program was created by coders, for coders, to provide refresher training that will benefit coders now and will also be very important during the transition to ICD-10. Taking the time to brush up on Anatomy & Physiology now will help with ICD-9 coding, and strong A&P skills will be very important as we transition to ICD-10.

Please support MaHIMA in its goal to attract more volunteers and new ideas. In January, we are planning a different format for our meeting. It will be designed to allow our members to interact, share ideas, give input and network. It is our hope that through this trial format, we will gain a clearer insight to the needs of our members. The input and ideas you share will allow our CSA to ensure that we are on track with our goals in order to better serve our membership. In the mean time, there are several different committees that need help and the work they do is interesting and rewarding, and it is a good way to network with your peers in the HIM profession. Please feel free to contact me a 781-272-8001, or by email at lyoung@aboutams.com.

Have a wonderful Fall season!

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Awards

By: Susan Pepple

The Awards Committee is hard at work revamping our large and dynamic awards program. Several changes are in the works and we want members to be aware so they can plan accordingly.

The current Retiree Award will be replaced with **Member Recognition** at the Fall meeting. Anyone who has been a continuous member for 25 years or

greater will be recognized. The existing HIM Advocacy Award, Legislator of the Year Award, and Outreach Award will be rolled into a new **HIM Advocacy Award** to recognize a member or non-member "change agent" who promotes HIM initiatives. The HIM Advocacy Award will be presented at the Dot Wagg Seminar.

Our Winter Meeting will see three individual achievement awards presented. The individual achievement awards are **Outstanding New Professional** for newly credentialed members; **Champion Award** which recognizes volunteer service to MaHIMA; **Professional Achievement Award** which recognizes a member for efforts to advance the HIM profession; and the **Distinguished Member Award** recognizing a member for their long term leadership of MaHIMA.

The **HIM Team Excellence Award** which has had several names since it was created but always recognizes the efforts of more than one individual to achieve a goal will continue to be presented on-site at the workplace during HIP week in the Spring. The **Student Achievement Award** will be moved to an existing ceremony, such as graduation or pinning ceremony, held at AHIMA accredited schools in our area. Awards Committee is always doing something and welcomes new members.

TOP



Communications

By: Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA

Throughout the summer the Communications Committee has been working on several initiatives. One such initiative is the development of a Student Advisory Group, a collaborative effort with the Education Committee. The group held some initial brainstorming sessions and

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Communications

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discussions aimed at better understanding the current relationship between MaHIMA, HIM students, HIM program directors, educators and HIM professionals. The group is working to find innovative ways to build a bridge between HIM students and educators seeking internship, employment opportunities and HIM professionals who are willing to host students and consider students for HIM employment opportunities. The Committee has also been working on improving our public relations communication efforts. Our goal is to identify opportunities to publicize the work and accomplishments of MaHIMA as well as those of our individual members.

This August our Website Content Editor, Christopher Rushbrooke passed the website editing role to Martha Hamel and Julianne Blanch as he begins graduate school this fall. I would like to thank Chris for the great work he has done over the last few years to keep our site fresh and relevant. I would also like to thank Martha and Julianne for stepping up to take over. Please feel free to contact Martha at mhamel@partners.org or Julianne at jblanch@partners.org if you have comments or suggestions for our website.

Our Long Term Care (LTC) – Post Acute Care (PAC) Forum is planning its first face-to-face meeting on Thursday, November 1st from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn. The meeting will be hosted by Monica Baggio Tormey, BS, RHIA, CHP Privacy Officer and Regional Director of Health Information Management at New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn. If you are interested in participating in discussions about HIM topics relevant to LTC/PAC, please contact me at jfernandes7@partners.org.

In addition, the Committee continues to develop member e-Surveys, Job Alerts and e-Alerts, and our Social Networking Team is working on enhancing and integrating MaHIMA's online presence on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We encourage you to follow us online:



Volunteering with MaHIMA is a rewarding experience. If you have an interest in working with the Committee on any of these initiatives, please contact me at jfernandes7@partners.org.

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Finance

By: Linda Hyde, RHIA

At the end of the association year, MaHIMA generated \$103,565 income and had \$110,534 of expenses. Our expenses are higher than income primarily due to a reduction in the AHIMA rebates from last year as well as lower than expected income from several of our education programs and sales of the Legislative manual.

60% of our income is from the educational programs as well as the Massachusetts share of the proceeds from the 2011 NE HIM annual meeting, 28% represents AHIMA rebates and the remainder from sales of the new Legislative manual and job bank advertising. Our expenses are primarily from education programs (40%), administrative costs (38%), and delegate attendance at AHIMA meetings throughout the year (11%).

The board is in the process of completing the budget for the current fiscal year which will be presented to the membership at the Fall Meeting on September 20, 2012. As of the end of June MaHIMA has \$106,984 in assets with 83 % (\$89,079) in the Merrill Lynch and Fidelity accounts. This represents approximately 9 months of expenses available as reserves.

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Legislative Affairs

By: Ellen MacMullin, RHIA

The Legislative Affairs Committee in cooperation with NE HIMSS had a very successful turnout out this past March at Beacon Hill Day. The attendees were very pleased with the morning agenda and the afternoon visits with the legislators.

The Committee is in the planning stages of the Annual Dot Wagg Legislative Seminar. The Seminar will take place the first week in November. A few topics that are being considered are, the changes in the HIV law for testing and release of information, Health Information Exchange(HIE) impacts on the HIM Departments, Health Information Breach and computer forensics and a general update on release of information topics.

The newly revised Medicolegal guide is for sale. The guide can be purchased in hardcopy and electronic format (CD). MaHIMA member price for the Book and CD is \$200, CD only is \$150. You may pick up an order form at the upcoming Dot Wagg Legislative Seminar or send an email to info@mahima.org for ordering information.

See page 5 for a photo of the 2012 Beacon Hill Day attendees.

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MaHIMA and NE HIMSS Beacon Hill Day

May 2012



Feature Article

ICD-10-UPDATE

By: Linda Hyde, RHIA

In August the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized the new compliance date for ICD-10-CM/PCS as October 1, 2014. The year extension gives all of us more time to insure a successful transition and implementation of ICD-10.

In June 2011, the MaHIMA ICD-10 Forum was launched. This is an informal format for MaHIMA members involved or interested in ICD-10 that meets several times a year. The average attendance is 18-20 members. Topics include planning what MaHIMA can do to assist facilities in preparation for ICD-10 and other topics members wish to discuss. Now that a final implementation date has been established, the frequency of meetings will increase. Out of the ICD-10 Forum, an ICD-10 Trainers Forum is currently being developed. The group is made up of AHIMA-certified ICD-10 trainers who will volunteer their time and share their ICD-10 expertise as educators for MaHIMA-sponsored ICD-10 training sessions. Anyone who is interested in participating in this forum can contact Sue Marre at susan.marre@steward.org.

The Massachusetts Health Data Consortium (MHDC) monthly ICD-10 Forum meetings are continuing to work on developing a collaborative testing strategy between payors, providers and health plans as well as discussing methods for collaboration on mapping strategies between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS. Meetings are held monthly and if you or your organization is a member of MHDC and would like to attend these meetings please check out the ICD10 Forum page under Resources at the MHDC website <http://mahealthdata.org/>. TOP

Grasping the Full Definition of Principal Diagnosis

By: Cathie Wilde, RHIA, CCS, Vice President of Coding, Medical Record Associates (MRA)

A sixty-two year old patient is seen in the emergency room complaining of rectal bleeding. His HCT is 24 and his platelet count is 38,000. The admitting diagnosis is GI bleed. Makes sense. However, per the history and physical the patient has a history of a bleeding, arteriovenous malformation and myelodysplastic syndrome with recurring thrombocytopenia. During the admission of this one day stay the patient receives platelet and packed cells transfusions, two units each.

Considering a Principal Diagnosis

The final diagnoses per discharge summary are lower GI bleeding due to arteriovenous malformation, acute blood loss anemia, and advanced transfusion dependent myelodysplastic syndrome. What Principal Diagnosis should be assigned for the above case scenario?

- Consider the definition of Principal Diagnosis – that condition after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission.
- Consider the treatment rendered to the patient during the hospitalization.
- Consider coding conventions and *Coding Clinic* Guidelines.
- Consider the complete documentation provided within the medical record.

The coding challenge here is that all three final diagnoses potentially meet the definition of Principal Diagnosis.

Take it All into Account

Some might be tempted to code the bleeding AV malformation as the Principal Diagnosis since this is the etiology of the anemia and the rectal bleed. However, no treatment or work-up was done

regarding the AV malformation. Some might consider the myelodysplastic syndrome as Principal Diagnosis. However, this is a chronic condition and not the acute reason/manifestation for occasioning the admission.

Coding Clinic guidelines regarding to two or more conditions each potentially meeting the definition of Principal Diagnosis state that either may be sequenced first unless the circumstances of the admission, the therapy provided, diagnostic workup indicate otherwise. In this case, the focus of treatment was directly specifically to the anemia and the thrombocytopenia given the transfusions and monitoring of hematologic lab values.

Always take into consideration the full circumstances of the patient's admission and the treatment rendered in conjunction with *Coding Clinic* guidelines when assigning the Principal Diagnosis. Assess the entire record. Don't take at face value the Principal Diagnosis on the discharge summary without taking into consideration the above factors.

Reference: *Coding Clinics* 2Q 2002, p. 64-65 and 1Q 2002, p. 3

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MaHIMA Announces Award Winners

By: Susan Pepple, Chair, Awards Committee

At the Fall meeting of MaHIMA on September 20, the following award winners were announced:

2012 Outstanding New Professional Award

Steve Eddington, RHIA

2012 Student Achievement Awards

Samantha K. Smith, CCA,
Fisher College

Christine Steward
Bristol Community College

Congratulations to our winners!

Consider nominating your colleagues and friends for these upcoming awards:

HIM Advocacy Award, nominations due September 30, 2012

Individual Achievement Awards, nominations due December 31, 2012

- Outstanding New Professional
- Champion
- Professional Achievement
- Distinguished Member

Information on the awards including criteria and nomination forms is available at http://mahima.org/awards_program/

TOP

AHIMA Coder Workforce Training for ICD-10-CM Coming to Boston November 16th

Event Type: In Person Meeting
Learning Category: Coding and Reimbursement

Venue: Hyatt Regency Cambridge

Location: Boston, MA

Date: 11/16/2012

Time: 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM EST

[Register Now](#)

AHIMA Coder Workforce Training for ICD-10-CM is a dynamic program for coder training in ICD-10-CM. Coding professionals looking to achieve proficiency in this system will find this program provides a well-rounded knowledge base to every chapter in ICD-10-CM.

Students interested in learning ICD-10 diagnosis coding should register for this program.

This program begins with a self-paced online course (completion required prior to in-person training), and continues with a one-day, in-person workshop. The online course provides an introduction to the ICD-10-CM code set, and is conducted on AHIMA's remote Web-based Distance Education Campus. At the in-person workshop, attendees will focus on in-class coding of cases in each chapter of ICD-10-CM. The in-person training focuses on ICD-10-CM coding. Also offered, post workshop, will be live learning center lessons focusing on site-specific areas such as long-term care, home health care, and physician practice.

[Coder Workforce Training for ICD-10 CM Only Agenda](#)

Continuing Education Units: 12

[Click here for details and registration information.](#)

TOP

AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM / PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis & Procedure Coding

By: Laura Caravetta and Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA

August 15 thru August 17 the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Massachusetts hosted "AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM /PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis & Procedure Coding" AHIMA's ICD-10-CM/PCS comprehensive training focused on teaching the Coder Workforce proficiency in the ICD-10 coding systems as well as touching upon advance ICD-10-CM and ICD-10/PCS. The training requirements consisted of two self-paced online courses that were required to be completed before attending the in-person training workshop. The online courses provide basic training in ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS code sets, and were conducted in AHIMA's remote Web-based Distance Education Campus. At the in-person workshop, trainers focused on coding exercises while building and modeling training techniques. The first day of the in-person training focuses on ICD-10-CM and days two and three focus on ICD-10-PCS coding. Once the in-person training workshop was completed, participants became eligible to become ICD-10-CM/PCS trainers pending the results of their AHIMA ICD-10-CM/PCS Trainer Certificate examination.

TOP

Fisher College

By: Valerie McCleary, MS, RHIA Director of HIM Programs

The second cohort of students for the Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management is beginning in September 2012. It is exciting to see this new program grow. All graduates of an accredited Associate in Science degree program are eligible, so consider obtaining an advanced degree online now!

Fisher College is seeking professionals working in the HIM industry to volunteer as guest speakers during some of the 1-hour web cam class sessions with students. Sharing HIM experiences, personal career pathways, the benefits of HIM association membership and networking will be a great asset to the students in all three programs at the college. Please let me know if you, or someone you know, may be interested in volunteering as a guest speaker!

Fisher College's HIM programs welcomes the addition of experienced HIM instructors Colleen McComas, RHIT from Palm Harbor, Florida and Matthew Eby, RHIT of Great Falls, Montana. Fisher instructors teach online from seven states around the country: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Florida, Kansas, Idaho and Montana.

July was a very busy month for conferences this year!

- Professor Hertencia Bowe, PhDc, MSA, RHIA (of Florida) represented Fisher College at the Florida HIM Association Convention in Orlando. Hertencia networked with the 400+ attendees at the conference.
- Professor Patti Nenna, RHIT (of Rhode Island), attended AHIMA's Leadership Symposium in Chicago, Illinois.
- Personally, I had the opportunity to attend the Faculty Development Institute and Assembly on Education in Orlando, Florida meeting many HIM educators and authors from across the nation, including Massa-

chusetts. Educational concepts and tips discussed at this conference will be incorporated into Fisher's online courses.

Use of AHIMA's Virtual Lab continues to expand in the courses. Fisher has increased the subscription number of students using the nine products in the virtual lab.

Work on ICD-10 planning has begun with course proposal development in progress. Three instructors at Fisher have completed AHIMA's ICD-10 Train the Trainer program.

Closer facilitation between Fisher's HIM programs and the Career Services department has increased the number of students accessing job postings, obtaining help with resumes, creating e-portfolios and other helpful career development tools to aid in their success!

TOP

During the AHIMA Assembly on Educa-

Bristol Community College

tion (AOE) in Orlando in July, Sue Pepple (Barry Libman, Inc.) Valerie McCleary (Fisher), Joy Rose (Bristol), and Marsha Estabrook (Berkshire) had a chance to meet and discuss how MaHIMA and the schools can work together to better serve both the MAHIMA members and the students who are studying to enter the Health Information field. They had several ideas for presentations to the MAHIMA COP. On Thursday September 20 they presented to the MAHIMA members attending the Fall Meeting.

INITIATIVE:

1. Faculty want to create a series of personal HIM career stories captured as video or audio recordings to be posted on the web and made available to HIM stu-

dents. The speakers, current HIM professionals, would be asked to address:

- where they went to school and what they studied
- their career path, where they worked and what they did
- description of their current position including responsibilities and challenges
- description of their participation in MaHIMA and how they benefit from MaHIMA
- what skills an HIM employer desires from the HIM students and new graduates?

TBD: Who gets asked to do it? Is it resident on MaHIMA's website? Is it publicly available? Will it only be available on the schools learning management systems? Will it only be available for faculty in Massachusetts or available on the AHIMA Courseshare space?

PROPOSALS:

"HIM assistants" to work in our Massachusetts community.

Discussed was: "How will an "HIM Assistant" benefit students and sites?"

Opportunity for:

- HIM students to get real world work experience in an HIM department. Faculty is especially interested in short-term projects such as department moves, system implementations, file purges, scanning, or data entry etc.
- HIM departments and other potential employers to hire temporary workers familiar with HIM objectives. Would be available at a lower cost than their existing staff and allow existing staff to keep department workflow on track.
- HIM departments or other organization have the opportunity to experience the value and potential that this future professional will bring to our HIM profession. TOP

Biography of Elise Belanger, RHIA-New Chairperson of Laboure College's HIT Program!

I graduated from Northeastern University's evening program in Medical Record Administration in 1975 while working at Massachusetts General Hospital as a unit secretary. I received my RRA shortly

after and have been an active member of AHIMA now for 37 years.

My first position was in the development and implementation of a Utilization Review and Quality Assurance Program for Boston's Health and Hospitals. I continued that endeavor at South Shore Hospital until I started my teaching career at Massachusetts Bay Community College. In 1980 I started the Medical Record Technology Program at Laboure Junior College. With a growing family requiring more flexibility, from 1984-2000, I did various combinations of consulting,

interim management, teaching, and per diem coding. From 2000-2005, as Director of Health Information at Fallon Clinic, I was involved in moving the HIM department from paper records and DOS-based computer systems to a state-of-the-art EMR. Since then, I have continued to consult and teach until rejoining Laboure College this past year.

[TOP](#)

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