

# MaHiMA

— AHIMA Affiliate —

Massachusetts Health Information  
Management Association

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## INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

Walter Houlihan MBA, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA

I was fortunate to be able to attend the 2014 AHIMA annual convention in San Diego. I would like to share with you some detailed information that was a major component of many discussions at this conference. Deborah Green, COO of AHIMA and other speakers covered various aspects of Information Governance or IG.

Adopting IG will help organizations establish policies, determine accountability, establish information life cycles, protect information, and promote investments in information technology. AHIMA unveiled at the conference eight IG Principles for Healthcare (IGGPC). These were written specifically for healthcare organizations.

1. Principle of Accountability: An accountable member of senior leadership shall oversee the IG program and delegate responsibility for information managers to appropriate individuals.
2. Principle of Transparency: An organization's processes and activities relating to IG shall be documented in an open and verifiable manner.

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## 2014 HIM ADVOCACY AWARD

COLIN J. ZICK, ESQ.



Heather Hedlund presenting the 2014 MaHIMA Health Information Management Advocacy Award to Colin J. Zick on November 7, 2014.

MaHIMA honored Colin J. Zick, Esq. with the 2014 MaHIMA Health Information Management (HIM) Advocacy Award.

In nominating Colin for the 2014 HIM Advocacy Award, a Legislative Committee member, Heather Hedlund, said "Colin has proven himself to be an advocate for our profession and our organization over the years, always happily willing to assist when asked. His work on the Medico-Legal Guide, and his numerous presentations have been invaluable to MaHIMA and it's members. We truly appreciate Colin and his dedication to MaHIMA and are happy to nominate him for the HIM Advocacy Award."

Colin serves on the Legislative Affairs Committee and speaks annually at MaHIMA's Dot Wagg Seminar.

Colin Zick is a partner with Foley Hoag LLP, where he serves as Co-Chair of both it's Data Privacy & Security and Healthcare practice groups, primarily concentrating on compliance issues facing hospitals, medical practitioners, device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies.

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**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Meeting and  
Coding Seminar

January 23, 2015  
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

ICD-10 PCS Workshop

February 7, 2015  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

ICD-10 CM Workshop

February 21, 2015  
7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Board & Strategic  
Planning Meeting

March 19, 2015  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

ICD-10 Summit

March 27, 2015  
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Annual Conference  
May 3, 2015 - May 5, 2015

**AWARDS**

**JOB BANK**

**FORUMS**

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## HIPAA PRIVACY:

### Ebola & Emergency Guidance from the Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

Pat Rioux, RHIT

The recent Ebola crisis brought more than a media frenzy for those of us in the Health Information Management world. It brought a reminder from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR) that the protections of the HIPAA Privacy Rule are still in effect and are not to be set aside during an emergency.

The bulletin from the agency responsible for privacy and security is entitled **HIPAA Privacy in Emergency Situations** and can be found on the CMS website: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/special/emergency/hipaa-privacy-emergency-situations.pdf>

The instructions in the bulletin provide a helpful training or refresher resource for covered entities and business associates on how to handle emergency situations. Lack of preparedness and uncertainty can hinder the ability to act appropriately.

*HIPAA regs are not suspended during a public health crisis or other emergency.*

OCR outlines the standards for sharing patient health data for various settings and purposes:

- Treatment;
- Public health activities;
- Disclosures to family, friends, and others involved in an individual's care;
- Disclosures to lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public; and
- Disclosures to the media or others not involved in the individual's care.

Of special interest are the instructions for handling media inquiries. In general, specific information about the details of a patient's illness may not be reported without the patient's written authorization. Review the bulletin for details about how a hospital or other health care facility may release limited facility directory information to acknowledge an individual is a patient at the facility and provide basic information about the patient's condition in general terms.

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*Pat Rioux, RHIT, is a Product Manager, Continuum of Care, for Elsevier Clinical Solutions. Her previous experience includes project management for clinical decision support software and product management for an ambulatory electronic medical re-cord software company. She serves on MaHIMA's Communications Committee (including Social Media).*

## PHISHING – IT'S REAL, AND MAY BE COMING YOUR WAY!

Martha Hamel, BIDMC Privacy Specialist

By now, everyone has heard about a phishing attack in the news. You may even have been a victim of the recent J.P. Morgan Chase incident that happened in August. Thousands of customers were targeted with an unsolicited email. The email contained a phony link that appeared to be from a legitimate business. Users were tricked into supplying personal information making it possible for the cyber thieves to access their bank account. The link directed the customer to a fake bank account where the monies were deposited. That's the long and short of it. It can happen that fast.

Phishing scams are not a new problem . . . it's been going on for years. Back in 2009 the FBI and Egyptian authorities solved "the biggest international phishing case ever conducted," according to the FBI. Nearly 100 people were charged with targeting US financial institutions – facing up to 20 years in prison. This is a serious crime, and there have

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### **CCS SELF REVIEW 2014 REMINDER!**

In case you did not receive the AHIMA notification, the paper form/ mailing for the CCS Self Review was discontinued this year.

***You must go to the AHIMA website to access the quiz.***

## STUDENT CORNER

Sherisse Monteiro, RHIT

### **Study Tips: Too Much Homework Could Mean Too Many Classes**

It's hard to admit that your heavy work load could be caused by taking on more classes than you have time for, but that doesn't make it any less true. If you took on an anatomy & physiology course and another high demand class like a legal health record course, odds are you are drowning in projects and homework. Try scheduling one high demand course with one low demand course. You may think you are doing yourself a disservice by only taking two classes at a time, but by taking three or four classes you could get through an entire semester and not get much out of it. Spending all your time trying to complete assignments rather than really absorbing the information would be the real disservice. Your goal may be to graduate as soon as possible, but keep in mind that you have to prove in the real world that you learned while you were in school and can do the job that you are seeking. Try reaching out to a student in your program who has already taken the classes you need to schedule, they can give you some valuable insight on the workload and perhaps even the expectations of the professor. Do your research and schedule courses carefully!