

MaHIMA - President's Message



JANUARY 2024 - President's Message

Happy New Year to My Fellow Health Information Professionals,



I hope you all have been able to take some time to visit with family and friends or simply to relax and chill!

There are a lot of great things going on at MaHIMA, including: winter conference webinars, continued planning for the annual meeting, preparation for Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., and many member engagement activities – all of which are covered in this issue of Connect. In light of this, I am going to focus my comments on a few key areas on the national level – the announcement of the new AHIMA CEO, a related update regarding the AHIMA acquisition of HCPro and its family of brands, as well as an update regarding AHIMA's 2024 Recertification Policy.

AHIMA Welcomes Dr. Kevin Klauer as New CEO

On 12/18/23, AHIMA issued a press release announcing the appointment of Kevin Klauer, DO, EJD, FACEP, FACOEP, as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1/8/24. Dr. Klauer's broad background in healthcare delivery and association leadership uniquely positions him to guide AHIMA into a future of growth and innovation. According to the AHIMA press release, Dr. Klauer is a highly regarded clinician, executive educator and thought Executive who holds a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, is board certified in emergency medicine and earned an executive juris doctorate from Purdue Global Law School.

AHIMA Acquisition of HCPro/ Announcement of new HCPro President

On 12/18/23, AHIMA also announced in its press release, that Amy Mosser, MBA, who has been interim CEO of AHIMA since June and a critical and impactful member of the AHIMA executive team since 2019, will become President of HCPro, LLC, which will remain a for-profit, wholly owned subsidiary of AHIMA. AHIMA President Mueller extended AHIMA's appreciation to Mosser for her exceptional leadership during the transition and CEO search. Her leadership, bold decision-making, and steady hand have been invaluable during this time of transition.

AHIMA announced on October 3, 2023 that it acquired HCPro and its associated brands from Simplify Compliance. HCPro provides education solutions to healthcare organizations, focusing on training, compliance, and the revenue cycle. The HCPro family includes Decision Health, Association for Clinical Documentation Integrity Specialists (ACDIS), National Association for Healthcare Revenue Integrity (NAHRI) and the Association of Home Care Coding & Compliance (AHCC).

2024 AHIMA Recertification Policy Updates

I've listed below a summary of key elements of the 2024 AHIMA Recertification Policy which include first the more positive features of the policy followed by the existing issue which may significantly impact the financial

viability of the MAHIMA and all other CA's. Please take advantage of the free and low-cost alternatives noted below.

What remains the same:

- No changes to the required number of CEUs reported for single or multiple certification combinations.
- No changes to recertification cycle duration (it remains 2 years).
- No changes to certification fees or discounts associated with AHIMA membership.

When recertification policy updates go into effect:

- Any AHIMA certified professional whose certification cycle begins on 1/1/24, will have a full 2 years to complete, report and comply with 2024 requirements.
- If recertification cycle start date occurs BEFORE 1/1/24, then the professional will continue to follow the 2023 requirements; only when their existing 2-year cycle concludes, will the 2024 requirements go into effect.

Low Costs Ways to Meet CE Requirements:

- All AHIMA professional members receive 5 FREE CEUs annually. This means that all AHIMA professional members receive 10 FREE CEUs during a two-year period.
- All AHIMA professional premier members receive 8 FREE CEUs annually. This means that all AHIMA professional premier members receive 16 FREE CEUs during a 2-year period.
- Reading AHIMA professional journal/magazine articles and completing/passing an assessment is a low-cost way of attaining CEUs.

New CEU Opportunities (*Examples*):

- Taking voluntary self-assessments for all credentials
- Obtaining additional AHIMA certifications or micro credentials
- Serving in a defined AHIMA or CA volunteer role
- Serving as an officer for AHIMA or CA
- To add flexibility and value, up to 20% of additional CEUs earned (*beyond the minimum amount required*) within the last 3 months of a certified professional's current recertification period, **will rollover to the NEXT reporting period**. *For CEU's to qualify for this rollover opportunity, they must come from AHIMA, a CA and/or ACEP provider.*

Activities for Enhanced Recognition: (*Examples: Complete 3 or more activities noted below and recognized for going above and beyond*).

- Authoring or editing a textbook, workbook or manual.
- Author in research journal or in an educational or trade journal
- AHIMA course writing
- Editing AHIMA Policy Statements

“Bone Of Contention Between AHIMA and CA’s”

Initially, as of 1/1/2024, a minimum of 40% of CEUs are REQUIRED to come directly from AHIMA resources. AHIMA resources include any AHIMA wholly owned learning product or experience, which include HCPro products and services, sold either through the AHIMA or HCPro stores. Remaining CEUs can come from any ACEP partners, CAs and other third-party education providers. *AHIMA noted in their documentation that this requirement is meant to ensure the quality and efficacy of the learning experiences giving CA's the impression that CA professional education is not of the same quality as AHIMA's.*

A group of CA Presidents (29 initially) banded together led by the Arizona Health Information Management Association and reached out to all the CA Presidents in November. The CA presidents drafted a letter to AHIMA leadership outlining the CAs concerns and requested that the 40% rule be removed immediately along with several other items. The letter was very professionally written but succinct. Because the letter needed to get to AHIMA in time for their 11/30 and 12/1 Leadership meeting, many CA presidents were not able to add their name to the letter. The Arizona team provided a copy of the letter to each remaining president asking them to send a letter noting support of the original letter. Most CA presidents did respond; some CA's asked their Board members and membership to send letters as well. With the MaHIMA Board of Directors approval, I was included in the original letter to AHIMA as a CA President representing MaHIMA.

The AHIMA Board of Directors did reach out in response to the letter and noted that the letter was forwarded to CCHIIM for review. ***On 12/14/23, AHIMA leaders did send an update to members noting that 'considering the feedback received, CCHIIM voted to defer the implementation of the 40% AHIMA CEU requirement until 1/1/25 to give the CA's ample time to understand the changes and plan accordingly.***

The CA leaders have not given up the goal to stop implementation of the 40% AHIMA CEU requirement. Communication between CAs has continued and updated plans are in development. Please know that MaHIMA leaders continue to work with the other CAs to resolve this issue. I encourage members to go back and read the original and updated AHIMA 2024 Recertification Policy to make sure you understand the implications for 2025. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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President, MaHIMA