

# Season of Transformation

Save to myBoK

By Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, FAHIMA, chief executive officer

As I write this, the industry is finally beginning to shift its gaze from the first few weeks of the brave new world of ICD-10-CM/PCS. In October, with each passing day, we breathed a collective sigh of relief as implementation went smoothly. At the end the month, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reported that only about two percent of the 4.6 million claims filed daily from October 1 to October 27 were rejected due to incomplete or invalid information. (My favorite headline was *Politico*'s "CMS: ICD-10 moving along 'like butter.'")

It's been a long road since the proposed rule for ICD-10 was first published in 2008. AHIMA members worked hard to get here, but implementation is only the first step. The big question is: What's next?

As the new year begins, I realize that we are at a very exciting juncture in the history of the HIM profession. In the past few years we have seen unprecedented change in the industry, with technology and regulation changes making considerable alterations to the landscape.

Similarly, we find our own roles shifting. In addition to ensuring the integrity, privacy, and availability of health information, we are beginning to move into a new role—telling a patient's story with data and helping to move healthcare strategy to improve patient care.

To support this transformation, AHIMA will be doing the following in 2016:

- Continuing to expand our advocacy for information governance (IG) adoption as an enterprise-wide strategy throughout healthcare
- Continued emphasis on education in data analytics and clinical documentation improvement (CDI) to enhance our evolving professional competencies
- Coming in March, we will be asking for your support in advocating for a voluntary national patient safety identifier to address important patient safety issues resulting from the challenges of selecting correct patients by name—all the health information in the world won't help if you can't connect it to the right patient, and that's what we want to talk about

The articles in this month's issue of the *Journal* reflect the number of new opportunities before us. In our cover story, "Stocking HIM's Workbench for the Year Ahead," Mary Butler discusses the biggest HIM stories of 2015—ICD-10, IG, standards/interoperability, CDI, data analytics, and privacy/security—and how they will impact us in the coming year.

HIM professionals can make good use of the skills they've developed with ICD-10 and IG implementation in a variety of ways. HIM is involved in an increasing number of major hospital initiatives, like health IT implementation, and would benefit from project management skills. In "HIM, Meet Project Management," Lisa Eramo looks at why project management skills are becoming more important for HIM and how they can be used.

"Use cases" are becoming part of our understanding of the development of healthcare standards. In "Use Cases: The Fulcrum of Standards Development," Susan E. Campbell describes how use cases can assist in standards development for mobile health.

With ICD-10 implementation in progress, HIM professionals may be re-evaluating their service line agreements with vendors. Charlie Saponaro identifies new challenges and strategies for HIM service relationships in "HIM Directors Face Outsourcing Realities."

It's a busy and exciting time to be an HIM professional. What opportunities do you see? Let us know at [journal@journal.ahima.org](mailto:journal@journal.ahima.org).

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