

# Taking the Lead on Meaningful Use: Program Goals Align with HIM Expertise and Objectives

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HIM professionals are front and center in leading the national effort to demonstrate the meaningful use of health IT. They have a key role in leading their organizations to successful compliance with the meaningful use program. How are you advancing your organization's successful adoption of EHRs?

If you are not familiar with the scope of the program, you should review and research the program's objectives so you can become the meaningful use expert in your organization. Learning what is required to meet each objective will make you a sought-after resident expert.

Those familiar with the program and its objectives should seek to lead the meaningful use steering committee within their organizations.

## Shifting Focus to Data Extraction

Research shows that data must be transparent and overseen by honest brokers or stewards to gain everyone's trust. Stewardship is HIM's role. HIM practices facilitate data stewardship by promoting the adoption of guidelines for data access, use, and control, as well as principles and guidelines for the standardization of content and definitions.

The industry is shifting focus from data transactions to quality and outcomes, which require a new data architecture that enables multiple systems to operate together. We will move from abstracting to extracting data from EHRs and mining data from central repositories.

HIM professionals are in a unique position to evaluate the data in the EHR and other source systems that feed into the enterprise-wide data warehouse. They must be active participants in the entire EHR lifecycle, leveraging their knowledge and expertise in records management, confidentiality and security, workflow, terminology and classification systems, standardized data sets, and health information exchange.

HIM professionals are experts in data content standardization and have the necessary skills and competencies to advance improved validation, capture, analysis, and output of information for quality and patient safety initiatives.

HIM professionals are able to provide data related to serious adverse events, present on admission indicators, and hospital-acquired conditions. They are also equipped to analyze and interpret these data and participate in the patient safety teams that conduct root-cause analyses and develop action plans for improvement.

HIM professionals must step up to the plate now to play a critical role when quality and safety conversations and decisions are made.

## Taking the Industry to the Next Level

Meaningful use takes HIM work to the next level. It is what the HIM profession has been working toward for decades.

HIM professionals are ideal candidates to lead this initiative while playing a pivotal role in the information capturing process and system improvement measures.

I hope you are taking the lead in your organization to develop innovative HIM practices. Leveraging HIM expertise as a key partner in a multidisciplinary patient care team enables effective management and use of healthcare information to further

advance improvements in quality and patient safety systems.

Together, we can learn from each other and accomplish quality healthcare through quality information.

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