



MOUNTAIN ECHOES

A publication of the Idaho Health Information Management Association (IdHIMA).

Board Message

Welcome to our Spring edition of Mountain Echoes! We hope that you had a pleasant winter and are ready for warmer weather. As a Board we understand that recent events have changed how our paths may cross as we continue well into 2020. We announced this past week the cancellation of our 2020 IdHIMA Annual Spring Convention. Virtual options for education are currently being arranged and we will also provide updates with our Annual Business Meeting. Despite the Spring Convention cancellation, the IdHIMA board is continuing business as usual. Please see information below on scholarships, distinguished member and other announcements that we wish to share with you. Happy Spring!

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IdHIMA Election Now Open!

The IdHIMA election is officially under way! Voting opened this week and will remain open until April 13, 2020, at 5pm MST.

Positions Open – Those elected will begin their term on July 1st, 2020

- President-Elect
- 1st Year Director at Large
- Treasurer
- Program Director
- Secretary
- Nominating Committee Member

Time to get out and vote! Log in to your MyAHIMA account and choose the link for “Voting Center” under “Community”.



2020 IdHIMA Annual Meeting & Convention Cancellation

Just a reminder that the 2020 Annual Meeting and Convention has been canceled. We thank you for understanding as the situation with COVID-19 (coronavirus) has prevented us from holding our meeting as scheduled. As it was stated, our decision to cancel was not taken lightly. Upon hearing recommendations from officials in Idaho, other organizations and concerned IdHIMA members, it was decided unanimously as a Board to cancel the event. HIMSS was also supportive of this decision.

Our cancellation has been no small task. The Board would like to thank the many affiliates who have so graciously assisted during this time. Hilton was gracious in allowing us to cancel our reservation without penalty and Knowledge Connex was very responsive and supportive in our decision with timely communication. We would also like to recognize Diana Arcos and Timree Martinez, two Boise State students who have both helped gather speaker information and are following up with speakers to explore virtual options.

Convention Refunds

If you have already registered for the 2020 IdHIMA Annual Spring Convention as an attendee or vendor, we will be issuing full refunds. You will be contacted within the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience as we update our communications, process refunds, respond to inquiries, and work on virtual CEU opportunities. We look forward to exploring new ways of connecting.

2021 IdHIMA Annual Meeting & Convention

Although our 2020 meeting has been cancelled, we are already looking forward to next year! Save the date for the 2021 IdHIMA Annual Meeting and Convention!

April 8th and 9th, 2021 at Hilton Garden Inn Boise Spectrum

Virtual Education

The IdHIMA Board is exploring virtual options to ensure Idaho members continue to have access to affordable CEUs. Most, if not all, of our scheduled speakers work in the healthcare field, so many are overwhelmed with contingency planning right now. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to connect in the coming months. We have already had speakers agree to recording webinars on risk analysis, staff development, productivity, the future of the workforce, rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility reimbursement, registries, and machine learning and artificial intelligence. In addition, our Coding Roundtable Director, Joanna McCormack, is working on a webinar series on data analytics. We anticipate offering a number of recorded webinars via the IdHIMA website, and HIMSS will be offering live sessions open to members of both organizations. Please watch the website and your email for more information as new opportunities become available.

Convention Coding Round-Up

Convention may be cancelled, but that won't stop Lori-Lynne Webb from helping you saddle up for our Coding Round-Up web series! Watch for this series of three webinars (6 CEUs!) to be posted on IdHIMA's website by mid-April.

These fast-paced and jam-packed sessions will provide in-depth strategies using current concepts and information on ICD-10-CM/PCS, physician-based coding, chart auditing and clinical documentation, and global surgical services. This includes information on documentation guidelines, auditing practices, appeals, denials, and smooth coding/claim operations in the outpatient and office settings. This series will review strategic practices that impact current coding and reimbursement realities. The concept behind these fun and informative sessions is to educate and empower coders to face the challenges of today.

HIMSS Webinar: Telehealth Tell-All

Tune in Wednesday, March 25th, for a webinar from HIMSS Idaho Chapter. Trudy Bearden, PA-C, MPAS, Senior Consultant at Comagine Health and NCQA PCMH Certified Content Expert will present "Telehealth Tell-All: Optimizing Opportunities in the Setting of CV-19".

The purpose of this webinar is to help health care organizations navigate through the latest telemedicine guidance in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those at the front lines of health care service delivery don't have time to sort through all of the latest information and need just-right and

just-in-time information to strategize on whether and how they will implement enhanced telemedicine services to keep patients and others safe and optimize revenue capture. Note that this webinar will be heavily weighted towards the primary care setting.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://healthinsight.zoom.us/j/222920398>

Telephone number: 1 669 900 6833 or (toll-free number 877 369 0926)

Meeting ID: 222 920 398

Comagine Health is a national, nonprofit, health care consulting firm. We work collaboratively with patients, providers, payers and other stakeholders to reimagine, redesign and implement sustainable improvements in the health care system.

21st Century Cures Act: Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification Program

Author: Jaime Sand, EdD, RHIA, CCS

On March 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finalized two rules, issued by the HSS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, that implement interoperability and patient access provisions. The ONC rule updates certification requirements and establishes new provisions for EHRs to ensure better communication and data sharing between providers and expands potential options for patients to access data through a variety of applications. Learn more:

- ONC's Cures Act: <https://www.healthit.gov/curesrule/>
- CMS' Interoperability and Patient Access Fact Sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/interoperability-and-patient-access-fact-sheet>
- Final Rule: https://www.healthit.gov/cerus/sites/cerus/files/2020-03/ONC_Cures_Act_Final_Rule_03092020.pdf

COVID-19 Resources and Coding Updates

Author: Maggie Trautman, BS, CHDA

New information is being released regarding COVID-19 almost as fast as events are being rescheduled and venues temporarily closed. As AHIMA's CEO, Wylecia Wiggs Harris stated in the [AHIMA E-Alert](#) on March 12, our work has an impact on the quality of patient care, and our understanding of

health information helps us tell the stories of our patients and the health of our communities. During times like this, the knowledge that health information professionals can help share is invaluable and your IdHIMA Board wants to help keep you informed by compiling some recent updates.

- A primer - [How to Use ICD-10-CM and new lab testing codes for COVID-19](#) - has been put together by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Being familiar with the details in this primer will help you accurately code for payment and provide data to help chart the course of the virus.
- [The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) announced](#) regulatory actions and flexibilities to help states and healthcare providers contain the spread of COVID-19. More detailed information can be found in CMS' press release. This press release includes details regarding the specific waivers granted by CMS and additional tools such as an Emergency Preparedness webinar and Emergency Preparedness FAQs.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a [policy statement](#) and [factsheet](#) regarding waiving telehealth cost-sharing during the COVID-19 outbreak. The OIG will not subject practitioners to administrative sanctions for reducing or waiving any cost-sharing obligations Federal health care program beneficiaries may owe for telehealth services, furnished consistent with applicable coverage and payment rules, during the time period subject to the COVID-19 emergency declaration.

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to unfold, remember the important impact health information professionals have. Continue to stay healthy and safe.

Newly Credentialed Members

We recognize the dedication of our membership to lifelong learning and professional growth. We would like to extend a big “Congratulations!” to the following individuals for receiving a new AHIMA credential!

- Connie Cook – CCS
- Dana Hamilton – RHIA
- Deborah Huber - CCS
- Teri King – CCS
- Mardelle Klaus – RHIA
- Olga Proshak – CCS

Call for Distinguished Member Award

The IdHIMA Distinguished Member Award has been presented to dedicated HIM professionals since 1984, beginning with Pat Kemper, ART. Please take a moment to nominate a colleague for the IdHIMA Distinguished Member Award for 2020. The person you nominate must possess the following attributes:

- 15 Years of service as an active Health Information Professional OR;
- 10 or more years of service to AHIMA and/or to a Component State Association (CSA) with at least 5 years of involvement in IdHIMA as an Officer, Director, Committee Chairperson, Committee member or Delegate; OR
- Has contributed to the Health Information profession in any of the following: Publication, Research, Education, Systems Design, Public Relations, etc.

Please submit your nomination on our website: <https://www.idhima.org/members/distinguished-member/>. Due date for submission has been extended to **April 1st, 2020**.

IdHIMA Scholarship Opportunity

We would like to again congratulate our 2019 IdHIMA Scholarship winners: Monica Aleman-Wrigley, Beatriz Garcia, and Amie Mietchen!

The Idaho Health Information Management Association (IdHIMA) is dedicated to promoting Health Information Management (HIM) and assisting HIM specialists in their professional development. IdHIMA is, therefore, offering three (3) scholarships to go toward the fee for any AHIMA credentialing exam at the member rate. Scholarships are awarded to students and IdHIMA active members who plan on sitting for their exam prior to the allotted time documented on their scholarship award certificate.

If you would like to apply for an AHIMA credentialing exam scholarship, please follow the steps outlined below:

1. Complete the online application form [IdHIMA Scholarship Application](#).

2. As indicated on the application, write a letter outlining your reasons for applying for this scholarship, your post exam professional plans, and the contributions you plan to make to the health information management profession.

Complete the online application by **April 1st, 2020** (deadline extended!). If you have any questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Cris Bennett (cjbdancer@msn.com).

Health Information Professionals Week

The celebration of Health Information Professionals Week, scheduled for the week of March 22-28, will be postponed. [AHIMA announced this decision](#), in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rescheduling will take place when health information professionals can fully come together and celebrate our industry, its workers and leaders.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome all of our new members to IdHIMA! We are excited you made the decision to join AHIMA and designate Idaho as your State Association. IdHIMA provides you with access to professional education and networking among individuals within the HIM field and similar fields.

Job Board

Have a current position open? Looking for a change in your career path? Check out the IdHIMA Job Board! We offer reasonably low fees to post available positions to our IdHIMA webpage. Please visit <https://www.idhima.org/him-careers/job-board/> to submit or view current openings, and remember, browsing is always free!

Staying Connected

Find us on social media!

AHIMA Engage Communities: Idaho Community

Facebook: www.facebook.com/idhima

Instagram: @idahohima

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/idahohima

Twitter: @id_hima

Questions? Email us at idahohima@gmail.com

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Promoting the Art & Science of Idaho Health Information Management