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Spotlight on Health Information Management in Education
Perspectives, AHIMA’s Online Journal, Discusses Link Between Education, Care Quality

CHICAGO (July 5, 2012) — Best practices for educating Health Information Management (HIM) students and consumers is the focus of the summer issue of AHIMA’s online journal, Perspectives in Health Information Management.

Educational themes explored include course development, workforce characteristics, influencing consumers through education and information technology research, and putting education into action.

“The exchange of health information in a private, secure way grants access to providers that improves a patient’s overall quality of life; what better way to make things of this nature happen than through educating the stakeholders,” writes guest editor LaShunda B. Smith, MSM, RHIA, CHDA. Smith is an associate professor and director of the Division of Continuing and Distance Education/Summer School and serves as the director of the Health Informatics Management and Systems Program at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss.

Featured stories in the summer issue include:

- Type “Dengue” into a Google, Yahoo! and Bing search engine. What is the quality of the health information you will find? This is the objective of the study, “Evaluation of Dengue-related Health Information on the Internet.” The authors hope that educating consumers to find and recognize valid online health information may improve decision making.

- “Racial Differences in the Usage of Information Technology: Evidence from a National Physician Survey,” revealed that white physicians underused a preventive service reminder system, compared to their minority counterparts. White physicians favor electronic communications with patients and exchanging clinical data/image with other providers.

- Which sources have the greatest influence on an individual’s decision to enroll in a postsecondary HIM educational program? This is the question asked of the study population...
in “Factors Influencing Students to Enroll in Health Information Management Programs.” The research hopes to support efforts to increase the number of HIM professionals.

- “Health Information Exchange: Metrics to Address Quality of Care and Return on Investment,” explores how health information exchanges are measuring their affect, and gathers examples of specific metrics since there is no standard. The authors urge the health information exchange community to take the lead in developing metrics to evaluate the benefits of information exchange.

- The primary focus of “Motivating, Influencing and Persuading Patients through Personal Health Records: A Scoping Review,” is studying the potential for personal health records to motivate, influence and persuade patients to adopt behaviors associated with disease and medication management. The authors report mixed findings and advocate for further, more targeted research.

- “Developing a Capstone Course within a Health Informatics Program” explores the ongoing development of a Health Informatics Capstone program in a Midwest university from the hiring of a program coordinator, to the development of a capstone course, through initial results. Lessons learned and future improvements in the Health Informatics capstone course also are discussed.

- “Student Participation and Interactivity using Asynchronous Computer-mediated Communication for Resolution of an Undergraduate Capstone Management Case Study,” analyzes communication behaviors of transmitter and receiver to determine communication among the small group participants in a health information management capstone management course.

About Perspectives
Perspectives in Health Information Management is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, referred to by professors, professionals, public officials, industry leaders, and policy-makers. Since 2004, it has been one of the most credible and respected journals of the HIM industry, and is referenced in notable indices such as PubMed Central (PMC), the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), and Google Scholar. Learn more about the submission guidelines and the manuscript review process.

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Representing more than 64,000 specially educated Health Information Management professionals in the United States and around the world, the American Health Information Management Association is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA’s enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. www.ahima.org