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## THIS WEEK'S TOP INDUSTRY & AHIMA NEWS

### CMS FINAL RULE MODIFIES MU STAGE 2, DELAYS STAGE 3

Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule granting hospitals and other eligible providers more flexibility in meeting criteria under the "meaningful use" (MU) Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program. The final rule, proposed in May, allows eligible providers unable to implement 2014 Edition certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT) due to availability to use the 2011 Edition CEHRT or a combination of 2011 and 2014 Edition CEHRT for an EHR reporting period in 2014. Eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals will be required to use the 2014 Edition CEHRT in 2015. The rule also finalizes the extension of stage 2 through 2016 and sets stage 3 to begin in 2017. [Read more at the Journal of AHIMA website.](#) Or access the [final rule](#) in the *Federal Register*.

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### AHIMA URGES MEMBERS TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR ICD-10

AHIMA and healthcare stakeholders have applauded the July 1 final rule from the Department of Health and Human Services announcing October 1, 2015, as the new compliance date for health care providers, health plans, and healthcare clearinghouses to transition to ICD-10.

On Monday, September 8, Congress will return to Washington, DC, after the August recess to finish legislative business for the 113th Congress. As Congress goes back to work, AHIMA encourages members to contact your members of Congress to express your support for the October 1, 2015 compliance date for ICD-10-CM/PCS and oppose any future legislative efforts to delay the code sets. A pre-written editable electronic letter is available in the Advocacy section of AHIMA's website. [Visit the AHIMA Advocacy Action Center.](#)

### ICD-10: LOOKING AHEAD TO BENEFITS, MANAGING CHALLENGES

ICD-10 will support performance improvement efforts, improve understanding of disease, reduce rejected and fraudulent claims, and increase the accuracy of payments for new procedures. Four industry experts, including Sue Bowman, MJ, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA, AHIMA senior director of coding policy and compliance;



Today at 1 p.m. CT, AHIMA and CMS will hold a free webinar, **ICD-10: The Road Forward**, discussing key steps for a successful transition to ICD-10 and resources to help, as well as CMS's new "Road to 10" tool. [Register now.](#)

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Karen Mihalik, executive director of revenue cycle management at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Todd Strumwasser, MD, CEO of Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, WA; and Stacie J. Watson, business lead for the ICD-10 Program at insurer Aetna, Inc., recently discussed these expected improvements and strategies for mitigating the costs of the transition to ICD-10 with the Healthcare Financial Management Association's *Leadership* magazine. [Read the Q&A.](#)

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## AT AHIMA CONVENTION, 'FEDERAL INSIGHTS' TRACK TO TACKLE HEALTH SAFETY

At AHIMA's 86th Convention & Exhibit, September 26-October 2 in San Diego, CA, the Federal Insights track on Tuesday, September 30 will explore federal government and allied organizations' strategies for better health safety. Sessions will cover the role of the Office for Civil Rights in privacy and security rules enforcement, as well as federal efforts around health information exchange and how to work with public and private entities on enterprise standards and interoperability efforts. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will also share resources for health IT and patient safety and information on how to apply for AHRQ funding for research.

Select session previews will be posted to the [Journal of AHIMA website](#) beginning September 17.

[Browse the Convention schedule and register.](#)

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## REPORT: ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS COULD BE SAVING PHYSICIANS BILLIONS

A recent report from the Coalition for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH), a nonprofit organization that helps stakeholders streamline business processes, says that physicians and other healthcare providers are underutilizing electronic transactions that could save them billions.

According to the report, in 2012, 91 percent of healthcare claims were submitted electronically, while only 68 percent of requests for eligibility and benefits verification and 57 percent of claims status inquiries were electronic.

The report projects that healthcare providers and facilities could save more than \$3.5 billion from electronic eligibility verification, approximately \$1.5 billion from electronic prior authorization transactions, and \$1.7 billion from increased electronic claim submission, claim payment, claim inquiry, and remittance advice. [Access the report.](#)

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## GET INVOLVED

### DISCUSS ICD-10 IN WASHINGTON



Register for [ICD-10 Talking Points for Legislators & Staff](#), September 10 at 12 p.m. ET, a free webinar by AHIMA's Policy and Government Relations office in Washington, DC. Learn how to construct a dialogue and talking points to discuss ICD-10 with legislators and their staff.

A vertical advertisement banner. The top section has a green background with the text 'LEARN THE' in white. Below that, on a white background, is the text 'Benefits of a Single Source of Terminology Truth' in black. The bottom section has a blue background with the text 'WATCH WEBINAR TODAY' in white, with a double left arrow icon. At the very bottom, on a white background, is the text 'Health Language®'.

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A vertical advertisement banner. The top section has a dark blue background with the text 'DISCOVER the Possibilities' in yellow and white. Below that, on a dark blue background, is the text 'HIM &amp; CDI Solutions Nationwide' in white. At the bottom, on a dark blue background, is a white rounded rectangle containing the text 'Learn More' in dark blue. Below the banner is the logo for 'MAXIM HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES', which consists of a dark red triangle above the word 'MAXIM' in white, with 'HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES' in smaller white text below it.

A red rectangular banner with the text 'AOW' in large white letters at the top, and 'ACRONYM OF THE WEEK' in smaller white letters below it, enclosed in a white border.

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## DOWNLOAD THE ENGAGE MOBILE APP - YOU MAY WIN



The Engage mobile app lets you participate in AHIMA's Engage Online Communities from your mobile device, wherever you are. Download the app before September 11, and be entered to win a gift card. Download by scanning the QR code at left, or visit [iTunes](#) or the [Google Play](#) store.

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## STUDENTS, JOIN THE FUTURE HIM LEADER COMMUNITY



The members-only Future HIM Leader Community on the Engage Online Communities is intended for students, new grads, and those new to the HIM profession. This is the perfect place to ask questions, share stories, and network with other AHIMA members. [Join today.](#)

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## VOLUNTEER FOR AHIMA IN 2015



Apply by September 30 for appointed volunteer positions in 2015, including new task forces on standards, data and information analysis, clinical documentation improvement, coordination of care, and consumer engagement. Start by performing a [volunteer competencies self-assessment](#), or begin browsing available opportunities in the [Volunteer Center](#) on Engage. Appointed members will be notified in November.

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## ATTEND THE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY SESSION



Are you attending [AHIMA's Annual Convention and Exhibit](#) in San Diego, CA? Plan to join us Tuesday, September 30, from 3:15-4:15 p.m., for the Volunteer Opportunity Session. Get an introduction to the appointed and elected opportunities available at the national level, submit a nomination form, meet current and former Board members, and more.

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## EDUCATION & NETWORKING

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

WEBINARS

## The Health Level Seven International (HL7)

Payer Summit will take place September 18-19 in Chicago, IL. HL7 is a nonprofit dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.

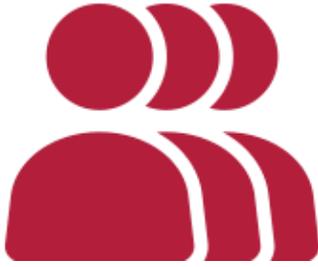
Learn more at the [HL7 website](#).



Happy birthday, [Engage!](#) Launched one year ago today, more than 14,000 people have visited AHIMA's Engage Online Communities, including AHIMA members and healthcare professionals from outside the Association and around the world.

Tell us how Engage has benefited you this past year, in the [AHIMA Membership and Business Community](#). We hope you will continue to visit Engage to speak your mind and share your ideas for years to come.

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[Annual Clinical Coding Meeting](#)  
**September 27-28**  
**San Diego, CA**

*Register now and save \$200*

Attend AHIMA's Annual Clinical Coding Meeting for invaluable education and training, cutting edge speakers, and great networking opportunities. Topics include clinical documentation improvement, compliance risks, ICD-10 readiness, electronic health records, and more. Register today for this important event.

[Privacy and Security Institute](#)  
**September 27-28**  
**San Diego, CA**

*In conjunction with the AHIMA Convention & Exhibit*

Privacy and security officers must balance confidentiality, privacy, and security issues of healthcare reform, technology advances, and workflow accommodations with regulatory disparity and laws such as HIPAA and the Final HITECH Omnibus Rules. Join us for this advanced-level meeting to stay abreast of the hottest privacy and security trends today.

**AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS**

[November 17-19](#)  
[Chicago, IL](#)

[December 1-3](#)  
[Las Vegas, NV](#)

[December 2-4](#)  
[Orlando, FL](#)

**AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM Only**



*Webinars start at 1 p.m. ET and last 60 minutes.*

**September 9**  
[The Missing Ingredient: Effective Internal Communications](#)

**September 23**  
[Keeping Compliant: HIPAA, the Omnibus Rule, and Data Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security](#)

**NEW FROM AHIMA PRESS**



[Strategies for Electronic Document and Health Record Management](#)

*Available for pre-order*

By Darice Grzybowski, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA

This book provides practical examples, case studies, and industry tips for successful use of electronic document management systems as a vital component of the electronic health record.

**PRICE: \$79.95**  
**MEMBER PRICE: \$64.95**  
**PRODUCT NUMBER: AB113013**

**NEW JOBS ON CAREER ASSIST: JOB BANK**

[CDI/UM Specialist](#)  
 Galveston, TX

[Medical Records Coder](#)  
 Jacksonville, FL

[Remote Inpatient Facility Coder](#)  
 Nationwide

[Lead Health Information Management Coder](#)  
 Fort Myers, FL

[Compliance Auditor/Analyst](#)  
 Camden, SC

View [more](#) available positions.



[November 17-18](#)  
[Chicago, IL](#)

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AHIMA 233 N. MICHIGAN AVE., 21ST FL., CHICAGO, IL 60601

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