

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

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In 2014, the HIM profession took steps both forward and backward, as the industry celebrated welcome advancements (most providers now use EHRs!) and worked to recover from unexpected setbacks (ICD-10 delayed again!). All in all, adaptation was a major theme this year. In an effort to stay relevant in an increasingly electronic and data-driven healthcare industry, HIM education and workforce competencies were modernized, while AHIMA called on all professionals to obtain the skills to use informatics and information governance practices to improve healthcare and land the HIM jobs of the future.

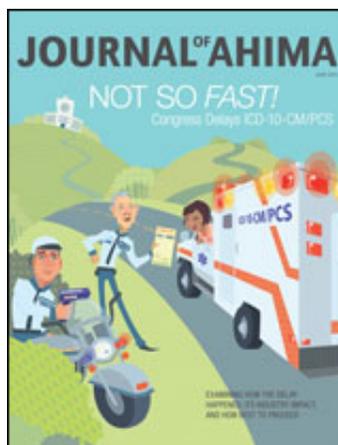
The *Journal of AHIMA* covered it all, and was recognized in 2014 for editorial excellence by [Association Media & Publishing](#) and the [American Society of Business Publications Editors](#). Below, *Journal* Editor-in-Chief Chris Dimick selects the top stories covered in the magazine and on its website this year.

You are receiving this e-mail as an AHIMA member and an E-Alert subscriber. E-Alert will return after the holidays, on January 8. Thank you for your readership this year. AHIMA wishes you health, happiness, and prosperity in 2015.

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Executive Level



1. NOT SO FAST! CONGRESS DELAYS ICD-10-CM/PCS

To supporters of ICD-10, it may have seemed like an April Fool's Day prank. But Congress and the President weren't fooling on April 1, when they finalized legislation that included [another one year delay](#) to the ICD-10-CM/PCS code set implementation. The delay was [slipped into a Sustainable Growth Rate patch bill](#) during closed-door, midnight negotiations between leaders of Congress as a way to appease those physicians against both the temporary patch bill and ICD-10.

In the week before the bill was signed into law, thousands of ICD-10 advocates contacted their Congressional representatives in an effort to remove the seven-line section of the bill that delayed ICD-10 "for at least one year."

Though the bill passed, ICD-10 supporters were pleased that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which had delayed ICD-10 by a year in 2012, [announced the delay would be until October 2015, the minimum amount of time](#) called for by the bill.

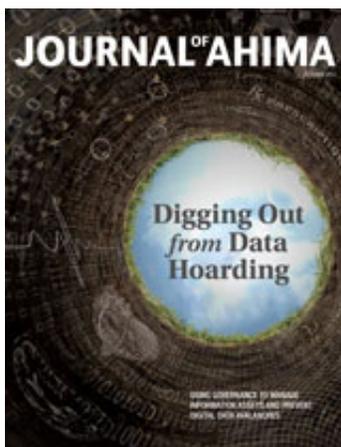


2. HEALTHCARE REACHES THE EHR TIPPING POINT

The healthcare industry reached a significant milestone for HIM professionals when the Department of Health and Human Services reported that, for the first time, more than 50 percent of physicians and 80 percent of hospitals were using an electronic health record system (EHR). The [March cover story](#) dove into this statistic to see just what this industry "tipping point" meant for HIM professionals, providers, patients, and the industry as a whole.

Vast improvements have come with the digital revolution in health information through advances like e-prescribing and better patient access to records through patient portals, but there have also been dangers—such as an uptick in [breaches of personal information](#) and the safety and audit risks that come when data is copied and pasted from one record to another.

Director Level



3. DIGGING OUT FROM DATA HOARDING

Information governance (IG) had a banner year as healthcare organizations began to heed AHIMA's call to embrace IG as the future of the changing profession. AHIMA did more than talk about IG, conducting the first ever [information governance survey](#) focused on healthcare, and creating a set of [seven IG principles](#) organizations can use to ensure their information is reliable, sorted, and used as a financial asset.

Data hoarding was practiced even in the days of paper records. But the move to EHRs made data hoarding easier and less visible than ever before. The *Journal's* October cover story, "[Digging Out from Data Hoarding](#)," discussed how IG practices could help HIM professionals manage their information assets and prevent their data from becoming unwieldy and unusable. As the results of AHIMA's IG survey showed, HIM professionals [need guidance](#) on how to clean up their information and better use it to improve care and bottom lines.

4. ADAPT OR DISAPPEAR

In 2014 the alarm bells were furiously rung to warn HIM professionals about the need to enhance their skills to stay relevant in the quickly changing healthcare field. EHR systems and other health IT has drastically changed the HIM skill set most healthcare providers need, and because of that, HIM's educators overhauled and revamped their curricula to have a more electronic focus. The [May cover story](#) discussed the efforts of the AHIMA



Manager Level





Foundation's Council for Excellence in Education to help lead the adaptation of HIM education and encourage seasoned HIM professionals to obtain the new skills needed for future success.

The November-December article "[Keeping Current in the Electronic Era](#)," also highlighted the revamp of HIM's workforce competencies that serve as the basis for education programs accredited by AHIMA.



5. MAKING DATA SMART

While health informatics is often considered an advanced, and academic, level of health information management, the discipline moved further into practical application in day-to-day HIM in 2014. More HIM professionals got involved in the decision-making process about what types of information are needed to resolve key issues, and applied informatics is becoming a key part of HIM work, with data analysts and others using "Big Data" to transform health record information into health intelligence. The [February cover story](#) examined how HIM professionals are integrating informatics into their everyday work and discussed new informatics-oriented roles opening up to HIM

professionals willing to learn data analytics skills.

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