

Telling the Patient Health Story

While many forms of valuable clinical data can be entered into an EHR in a structured way, some documents like transcribed physician notes remain trapped within unstructured electronic documents.

These transcribed notes and other narrative documents can be viewed through the EHR, but their siloed, unstructured status makes the information unavailable for data mining, quality measurement, and even some clinical use. Considering more than half of all clinical documents created in the US are dictated and transcribed documents, some in healthcare are saying the bulk of clinical information is being under-utilized by EHR owners.

But one organization is determined to electronically integrate narrative notes into computer-based systems and finally allow the EHR to tell a patient's entire health story.

The Health Story Project is an alliance of healthcare vendors, providers, and associations working to develop and promote infor-

mation standards that support the flow of information between common types of narrative healthcare documents and EHRs. Using the Health Level Seven-approved CDA language, Health Story Project standards allow transcribed narrative notes to be structurally tagged, sorted, and electronically pulled into EHR systems for use by physicians, HIM staff, and researchers.

"To be able to keep the detail of every patient's situation in the EHR, I think, is incredibly important in the area of patient safety and improved outcomes and better reimbursement," said Susan Lucci, RHIT, CMT, AHDI-F, the AHIMA representative on the executive committee of the Health Story Project.

The Health Story Project will be discussed at two convention presentations tomorrow (see sidebar). Members of the Health Story Project also will wear special ribbons, encouraging attendees to ask questions about the project and its standards.

AHIMA was one of the founding members

of the Health Story Project. Project members hope to use this year's convention to spread the word about how healthcare facilities can benefit from using their data standards. ☛

Health Story Project Convention Events

Wednesday

10–10:30 a.m., AHIMA Booth Theatre, Exhibit Hall

Presentation by Health Story Project executive committee member Nick van Terheyden, MD, discussing the details and benefits of the Health Story Project initiative.

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Grapevine Ballroom D

Clinical Narrative and Structured Data in the EHR: Venus and Mars Live in Harmony with CDA4CDT



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AHIMA BOOTH

Interim Rule on GINA

The Office for Civil Rights published interim final rules on the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act on October 1. OCR proposed to modify the HIPAA privacy rule to "clarify genetic information is health information and to prohibit the use and disclosure of genetic information by covered health plans for underwriting purposes..." according to its Web site.

The act, signed in 2008, protects individuals against discrimination in health coverage or employment based on their genetic information. OCR's proposed modification is described in the act.

See the October 1 issue of the *Federal Register* for the proposed rule. ⚡

Tell Us How We're Doing

Fill Out Evaluations, Receive CEU Certificates Online

Your convention experience and opinions are important to AHIMA and the convention planning committee. Evaluations and CEU Certificates are available online.

Complete the evaluation and receive your CEU Certificate during or after the convention

by visiting www.wyndhamjade.com/ahima09ceu. Once the evaluation is completed, you will receive an e-mail containing your CEU certificate.

The evaluation program will remain available through November 2, 2009. ⚡

Today at the AHIMA Booth

Stop by AHIMA's booth 2327 in the exhibit hall to explore what's new in publications, Web-based training, seminars and workshops, and gift items. While there, attendees can take advantage of convention-only discounts, receive a free gift (while supplies last), and receive online demonstrations of Web-based tools.

Demonstrations and Training

- 1-1:30 p.m. Certification Exam Prep
- 1:30-2 p.m. Action Community for e-HIM Excellence (ACE)
- 2-2:30 p.m. Communities of Practice (CoP) 2010
- 2:30-3 p.m. Personal Health Record (PHR) Industry Update
- 3-3:30 p.m. ICD-10 Implementation
- 3:30-4 p.m. Data Analyst Workshop
- 4-4:30 p.m. AHIMA Body of Knowledge (BoK) Basics
- 4:30-5 p.m. AHIMA's Virtual Lab

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