

## **VHIMA CODING ROUNDTABLE NEWS**

### **Upcoming Coding Roundtable Events**

March 26<sup>th</sup> – Southwestern Mental Health Institute in Marion, VA – 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Focus will be topics addressing mental health and long term care. This is the first roundtable of this type that VHIMA and sponsored.

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, VA – 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
This event will be sponsored in conjunction with the SWVHIMA annual spring meeting.

June – Petersburg/Richmond area – Details to follow

### **Other Coding News**

#### **ICD10 Preparation**

With ICD10 implementation still looming in the future for HIM professionals, we are still not quite believing that it will actually happen this time so we are leery about preparing ourselves and our staff for this change. Many professionals around the country are beginning their education process in preparation for ICD10 implementation. AHIMA is offering sessions to “train the trainer” which attendees can complete an exam to become a certified ICD10 trainer. Several HIM professionals across Virginia have attended these sessions already and many others are planning to in the future. When asked if she thought the training was worth the cost of registration, Lisa Smith,

In order to meet the needs of our members here in Virginia, the Coding Roundtable Committee is dedicating time in each of its roundtable events to have a speaker on ICD10 preparation. We think it is important to get as much information to our membership in as timely a manner as possible. As the time for implementation gets closer, VHIMA along with AHIMA will vamp up the educational and training sessions it offers to its members. Please monitor your VHIMA website and Virginia CoP for events coming to our state. Also, monitor the AHIMA website to find opportunities for audio conferences, webinars, and events in preparation for ICD10 implementation.

#### **CCS Prep Chat**

CCS Prep Chats will be held the first Friday of the month from 1-2:00 on the Virginia CoP to allow HIM professionals who are preparing to sit for CCS exam to network with other professionals to discuss coding question, study resources, and preparation advice. These sessions will be eligible for 1 CE and are free of charge. Please contact Gloria

Litton at [Gloria.litton@medicorp.org](mailto:Gloria.litton@medicorp.org) or (540) 741-3240 for more information and instructions on signing into the CoP.

### **Coding Roundtable Committee**

Prior to the most recent VHIMA board meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the members of the coding roundtable committee and other volunteers participated in a conference call to discuss and plan for upcoming events. The goals for the coding roundtable are:

- Holding roundtable meetings in each region of the state
- Providing useful, affordable coding education to the VHIMA members
- Providing education in current and upcoming events that affect HIM coding professionals. These events include ICD10, RACs, and acquiring and maintaining coding certifications.

In addition to planning several upcoming roundtable meetings, the group also discussed some of the roadblocks and issues that we face in the coding arena.

One area was communication. Many coding professionals in our state do not receive communication of VHIMA events. Some coders hold credentials from other organizations or many have chosen to not be active members of AHIMA which in turn excludes them from the VHIMA mailing list. Many AHIMA members have not updating their profile information so their electronic information does not reach them. Many members have also selected in their profile not to receive email communications from AHIMA which in turn does not allow email blasts from the VHIMA CoP.

Another area identified was the coder's role in managing denials and appeals. Most HIM Departments are given this task at varying degrees to address, research, and attempt to correct claims denied by various insurance carriers for their facilities. These include coverage issues that stem from diagnosis codes not being covered for specific tests. This, of course, goes back to receiving the appropriate documentation from the physician or their office regarding the need to for these tests. Many of us have addressed this issue and implemented effective ways of managing this process while others in the state are still struggling to get their arms around this issue. This topic is slated to be addressed at the upcoming June roundtable meeting to be held in the Petersburg/Richmond area. Watch the CoP and VHIMA website for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who participated on this call:

Gloria Litton – Mary Washington Health

Debra Richards – Carilion Clinic

Linda Parks – Southwestern Mental Health Institute

Christina Brown – Bon Secours Richmond Health System

Rebecca Perkins – HCA Healthcare

Kathy Harkness – Mary Washington Healthcare

Kim Galloway – (unable to participate in this call but participates as part of the roundtable committee)

Please take an opportunity to thank these individuals for their dedication and service to assist VHIMA in meeting the coding education needs of our members.

### **AHIMA's Charge to State Component Roundtables**

Per the AHIMA coding roundtable resource planning and guidelines, each state association must sponsor a coding roundtable for its members. Some of the guidelines for the roundtable are as follows:

- All documents used for coding roundtables must include the AHIMA coding Roundtable logo along with any state or local association logos or any sponsor logos.
- Each CSA must appoint a coding roundtable coordinator
- Roundtables must meet at least 4 times per year to maintain momentum and keep up with the changes in coding practice.
- To qualify as a roundtable, the topics presented/discussed must be appropriate to the coding/reimbursement professional.
- To provide a combination of virtual and face-to-face meetings