

Health Information Professionals Week Promotes 'Leading the Way to Quality Data' During 28th Annual Celebration

HIP Week Is March 26–April 1, 2017

Information can be used as an asset to benefit healthcare organizations, to improve performance and improve patient health. Achieving aims such as improving cost, quality, and population health depends on the ability to turn data into knowledge. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) will honor and celebrate health information professionals during the 28th annual Health Information Professionals (HIP) Week March 26–April 1, 2017. This year's theme is "Leading the way to quality data."

"In order for healthcare to meet the Triple Aim of improving care, reducing costs, and improving population health, we need to analyze and use data effectively," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, FAHIMA. "During AHIMA's Health Information Professionals Week, our goal is to raise awareness that health information management professionals are the best equipped to understand health data and turn information into knowledge that powers better decision making."

During HIP Week, Newman Memorial Hospital will be recognizing our Health Information Management Team! Sherlyn Longhofer does coding for the hospital. She makes sure that all of the diagnosis codes and billing codes match up to ensure accuracy for processing through insurance and patient billing. She plays an important role in ensuring that bills go out in a timely manner with accurate information.

Marcie Bozarth is a member of our Medical Records team. Her job is to review all medical records and make sure that they are complete and compliant. She also handles all of the requests for release of information. She ensures that our medical records are only released to the appropriate sources when all steps have been taken to ensure our patients privacy. Donna Poppe also works in Medical Records. She compiles all of the medical records and scans in all of the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) paperwork. This also ensures that we are compliant with all state and federal regulations and that records are accurate and complete.

Revenue Cycle Manager, Elizabeth Holt says, "HIM is integral to our hospital function because they keep us compliant from beginning to end. It starts when the patient comes in with making sure that diagnosis and procedure codes are correct, compiling all of the medical data into one complete medical record, all the way through the process of protecting health information and only releasing it under the appropriate circumstances." Newman Memorial has some special things planned to promote what they do here in the hospital and to recognize them and show our gratitude for all of their hard work. If you see them in the community this week, be sure to say thank you for their role in keeping our community hospital compliant and running!