

# NCHIA Newsletter

## North Coast Health Information Association

December 2019, Edition 2

CHIA | AHIMA Affiliate



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North Coast Health  
Information Association

### NCHIA COMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY

##### Winter Social

(see flyer)

Saturday, Jan 11, 2020

Berkeley Yacht Club

Key Note Speaker: Vivian Thomas,  
RHIA, CDPH

##### eHIM Operational Best Practices The Road to Health Information Integrity

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Location: Los Angeles, CA

##### eHIM Operational Best Practices The Road to Health Information Integrity

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Location: Sacramento, CA

#### FEBRUARY

##### Managing Medical Review and RAC Responses in the Physician Practice Setting

- HMS Medi-Cal / Medicare Audits
- Paper or Electronic Notification
- What happens when they're related to Hospital records?

#### APRIL

##### Provider Query Process

Speaker Monica Leich

## The HIT Program's Quest to Provide Quality Workforce in Healthcare

By Lily Brouette and Wanda Zimba, City College of San Francisco

The Health Information Student and Alumni Association (HISA) is the students' club of the Health Information Technology (HIT) program at City College of San Francisco (CCSF). Taffer "Taff" Sensitivefer, who is in the third semester of the HIT program, serves as the current H.I.S.A. Club's President.

LB : Tell us a little about your background and why you chose HIT as a field of study?

TS : While looking for a new field of study, I found the HIT program after taking the time to research. Many elements of the HIT program remind me of my first adult work experience as an information technician for the Air Force. Three aspects influence me to choose HIT as my best fit when determining a new field of study. More and new careers emerge demanding workforces with streams of potentials in acquiring a valuable collection of skills; this is the first aspect. Those that can meet the unique and increasing set of qualifications can expect to have a promising competitive income and a sense of job security; these last two are the second and the third aspects. Therefore, with high confidence, I say: "This is the one for me."

LB : Were you concerned at all about returning to school after several years in the field?

TS : I observe there is not much apprehension for returning students, who have not been in school for a while. The students should perceive their choices as new opportunities to learn new knowledge and skills that can help them take new directions in choosing new professions. When they start, they need to lay groundwork where they want to be, and then pursue that. The new students must try to develop their interest in where they would like to work that will help them focus on finishing the program with excitement. In summary: find the right place to start, stay focused, develop the goal, open mind, and complete the program.

The CCSF HIT program supports the students in a variety of ways by having the curriculums so well designed and defined. The faculties are incredibly knowledgeable and very accepting at the same time. It took me a couple of semesters to find my bearings. Right now, I feel fortunate to have the best faculties to support me in my opportunity to enter a new progression.

LB : How have you seen the HIT profession changed since you became a student?

TS : I learned that the three main areas in Health Information for the future are:

1. **The move away from fee-for-service to value-based** service without increasing staff, while maintaining the highest quality of care.
2. The programs that **move from volume to value** will bring changes to how Health Information Technology and Management will document, code, bill, and manage patients' information.

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## ICD-11 What Health Information Professionals Can Expect?

Summary by speaker, Debra Martin, RHIT

### ICD-11: What Health Information Professionals Can Expect

Planning of ICD-11 has begun in the USA after World Health Assembly adopted this in May 2019

Earliest date (in the world) for usage would be 2022. No identified date in USA as of yet for ICD-11.

ICD-10-PCS is a procedure classification system designed by CMS for coding hospital-based procedures.

This development was undertaken because WHO retired its procedure coding system with the 10th revision of ICD. CMS will be approving the procedural changes.

ICD-11 is described as digital, whereas ICD-10 was not built for electronic use.

Stem code (category) is 4 characters and there are 2 levels of subcategories.

ICD-11 is organized by body systems like the other classifications, but has new content with shifting of conditions/diseases to more appropriate chapters.

For browser and coding tool, see <https://icd.who.int/en/>

### 2019/2020 NCHIA Board

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## *The HIT Program's Quest to Provide Quality Workforce in Healthcare continued*

3. HIM needs to **keep improving record quality**, which includes coding. There are more meanings to the word "value." The word "value" can mean "compensation" to doctors, while to the patients, "value" can mean the quality of care provided to them. The healthcare delivery system is going toward the new outcome-based medicine model. To support the latter, HIM needs to involve in improving quality recording and documentation actively. Documentation errors are not only time consuming but also resulting in a direct hit on the patient's care in terms of the potential quality of care they receive.

In the beginning, coding was the only aspect of HIM I knew. In the first semester, Wanda Ziemba opened up my understanding by informing the students that there are more than coding in HIM field, for instance, billing, data management, request of information (ROI), etc. As I moved through the program, I took the tastes of different areas — my interests spark on different paths. If students are open-minded, they might find how the HIT program guides them to move to an alternate career in HIM that they find more suitable for their future career. I find myself wanting to become a tumor registrar for the VA

LB : We understand that you are the president of H.I.S.A. How does this club support students?

TS : The H.I.S.A. Club in CCSF offers opportunities for students to experience working in a team and to learn with each other. One of H.I.S.A. Club's strengths is in striving to bring the best of professionals. To obtain this strength, H.I.S.A. Club schedules panel discussions, lectures, insides shares of knowledge, and experiences with its members. In the last two monthly meetings, H.I.S.A. Club officers invited allied members to speak; both sessions were highly successful. The club offers chances to learn from professionals, who are already in the field, to become more comfortable in emerging professionals to meet and talk with people carrying the knowledge in healthcare. These professionals volunteered their time to come and help the students.

H.I.S.A. Club keeps growing. Last Spring, they held a workshop on "Navigating the Sayles" In the Fall, they will hold an RHIT review workshop. There will be more workshops in the plan for the future to support graduating students preparing them to take the credential exams.

LB : If you had any suggestions to incoming students for success in this field, what would they be?

TS : I commend students who are taking dual training in HIT and MA (Medical Assistant). I respect them for taking both because they learn more knowledge and skills in multiple fields that make them more valuable. They can be even more successful in their career choice. To provide more assistance to students, according to Blessy Anthony, another H.I.S.A. officer, H.I.S.A. Club's future opportunity might be in a mentoring program. This would be a "buddy system" for incoming students.