**Chapter 3**

**Health Information Functions, Purpose, and Users** *Nanette B. Sayles, EdD, RHIA, CCS, CHDA, CHPS, CPHIMS, FAHIMA*

**Real-World Case 3.1**

General Hospital knew they had a problem with duplicate health records and needed to clean up the MPI before the implementation date for the EHR in order to get the best results. A consulting firm was hired and a review of the data confirmed this problem when they 3,000 potential duplicate health records issued over the past five years were identified. The hospital started the MPI clean-up process by educating their patient registration staff on proper search strategies, questions to ask the patient, the importance of a unit health record, and other related topics. This education was an important first step so that additional duplicate health records would not be assigned while the clean-up process was going on. Once the training was complete, the consulting firm began cleaning up the MPI. The consultants reviewed the potential duplicate health records and merged the records where appropriate. They also ensured the health records were merged in other information systems used throughout the healthcare facility. They provided documentation to General Hospital showing which health records were and were not duplicates based on their review.

# Real-World Case Discussion Questions

1. What would you include in the training?

In the training of the staff to reduce duplicate health records I would ensure the staff understand how to organize their patients. Also, I’d ensure the staff ask the patient if they have been there before. Also, ask the patient basic information: name, DOB, gender, phone number. Also update any information about them, home address, phone number, new and prior names, etc. and maybe even a SSI number. It’s important to keep their information up to date as possible. good

1. What role can the consultants play in the MPI clean-up?

Consultants can really help clean up the MPI by being familiar with connections that link records together. They may also have a program/algorithm that finds duplicates or records that could be similar. They ensure everyone in the system only has ONE patient record and ensures everything is included without duplicating the information as well. They provide the hospital with information on which patients were not duplicates, as well. This way the hospital can address the staff how to properly ensure there is only one patient record per patient.

1. Why did the facility find itself in this situation?

The facility found itself in this situation due to lack of education, using paper records, and general human error. The facility may not have had enough set requirements to research when a patient arrives. They may have used poor idenfication systems or none at all. Now that the facility is turning to HER there should be easier ways to ensure duplicates are significantly reduced.

**Real-World Case 3.2**

The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics (UWHC) received AHIMA’s first Grace Award. This award is given to a healthcare organization that is innovative in the use of health information. UWHC collects all documentation electronically either through direct entry, scanning, or from a variety of information systems throughout the organization. Information from other facilities can be directly faxed into the EHR and be available for access within two hours. Patients are able to access information to schedule appointments and access test results. Physicians are reminded that the patient is due for tests or other services (Dooling and Wiedemann 2012).

Dooling, J. and L.A. Wiedemann. 2012 (November). AHIMA issues first Grace Award: University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics receives HIM excellence award. Journal of AHIMA. 83(11):26–27.

# Real-World Case Discussion Questions

1. What is the Grace Award?

The Grace Award is an award given to a healthcare organization that is innovative with using health information. It is give out by AHIMA.

1. Who are other Grace Award winners and what did they do to earn the award?

The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics were the first to receive the award. The following also received the award: Truman Medical Centers, Children’s Medical Center of Dallas, Texas Health Resources and Allina Health

1. What did theUniversity of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics do to earn the award?

The UWHC collects all of their documents electronically by either scanner, direct entry or from many different information systems within the organization. Their information can be directly faxed to the HER and available for access within 2 hours! The patients are also able to access their medical records, test results and even schedule appointments online.

# Application Exercises

*Instructions:* Answer the following questions.

1. Go to the AHIMA website or another health-related site and search for articles related to the uses and users of health records. Select two articles to read and write a paragraph on each, such as who uses health record data, why type of data is used, and why the data is important to the users. Why did you select each article? What do you think is important about each article?

Sierra Vista Hospital is located in rural city Truth and Consequences, NM. They are a small rural hospital that was skeptical with switching over to the EHR. The facility created an area where staff could go to learn how to use the EHR by completing learning modules. Once they began to get more comfortable with the program the doctors were able to spend more quality time with the patients rather than spend a lot of time fumbling through papers. I chose this article because I go to a rural doctors office and I wanted to relate. It’s important to recognize how helpful the EHR is and how it can simplify everything.

<https://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/sierra-vista-hospital>

In Joplin, MO a major tournado hit. One of the RN’s from that facility, Dottie Bringle, returned home from a trip and found her hospital physically destroyed. However, the EHR were not. Bringle’s hospital decided to switch over to EHR quickly and a lot of staff were skeptical, thinking that it would waste a lot of time. When the tournado hit the EHR were secured and not blowing around in the wind if they were paper. They were able to account for every patient that had been there. And during the devastation, they set up a temporary location for care at a local hall. They were able to forward patient information to a nearby hospital quickly. This is another example of how EHR are important in keeping patient information safe. I chose this article because I’ve learned quickly that EHR are very useful and I wanted to show another reason why.

<https://www.healthit.gov/profiles/medical-records-after-natural-disaster>

2. Interview an HIM professional in the HIM department of a healthcare facility about the differences in working in a paper, hybrid, or electronic health record environment. Write a summary of your interview.

1. Compare and contrast the functions of the paper and electronic health records.

Paper records are beginning to become less and less popular because they are not as efficient and secure. They require actual space for storage and provide more room for human error (lost papers, reduced security options, duplicate records, etc.) However, it is a tried and true common way of doing thing. An electronic health record requires the staff to learn something new. They must be comfortable with using a computer and learning new software easily and quickly. But, even though it is new, it is more efficient, reduces record mistakes, and allows for quick sharing of information to other locations/doctors quickly and easily. Algorithms are put into place to double check duplicate records. That isn’t possible with paper records. Staff have to check.

4. Put the following names in alphabetical order according to the rules provided in the chapter.

**Names to be Alphabetized**

Dodd, B. R.

Smith, Tobias

Dodd, Bobbie A.

Carson, D’ann

St. John, Phillip

Powell, Samantha

Thomas-Sewell, Rose

Dodd, Bobbie, R.

Fletcher, Cindy

Washington, Florence C.

Lincoln, Mark

Roberts, Marie

McDonald, Rachel

Quinn, Simone

Gates, Xavier

Carson, D’ Ann

Dodd, B R.

Dodd, Bobbie A.

Dodd, Bobbie R

Fletcher, Cindy

Gates, Xavier

Lincoln, Mark

McDonald, Rachel

Powell, Samantha

Quinn, Simone

Roberts, Marie

Saint John, Phillip

Smith, Tobias

ThomasSewell, Rose

Washington, Florence C.

5. Organize the following health record numbers in terminal digit order.

**Health Record Numbers for Terminal Digit Activity**

20-18-13 20-08-13 21-59-42

23-42-83 26-42-06 28-59-85

29-57-51 29-57-53 29-57-55

29-57-67 20-40-99 29-57-89

29-59-66 29-95-91 30-59-70

33-55-05 33-55-26 23-42-34

34-42-92 38-32-02 43-42-00

46-85-92 50-42-99 50-59-81

52-43-01 53-59-45 57-97-29

01-59-40 02-23-02 02-42-76

43-42-00

52-43-01

02-23-02

38-32-02

33-55-05

26-42-06

20-08-13

20-18-13

33-55-26

57-97-29

23-42-34

01-59-40

21-59-42

53-59-45

29-57-51

29-57-53

29-57-55

29-59-66

29-57-67

30-59-70

02-42-76

50-59-81

23-42-83

28-59-85

29-57-89

29-95-91

34-42-92

46-85-92

20-40-99

50-42-99

**Review Quiz**

*Instructions:* For each item, complete the statement correctly or choose the most appropriate answer.

1. Which of the following is a secondary purpose of the health record?

a. Document patient care delivery

b. Assist caregivers in patient care management

c. Aid in billing and reimbursement functions

 d. Educate medical students

2. Which of the following is an institutional user of the health record?

a. Patient care provider

b. Third-party payer

c. Coding and billing staff

d. Government policy maker

3. How do patient care managers and support staff use the data documented in the health record?

a. Evaluate the performance of employees

b. Communicate vital information among departments and across disciplines and settings

c. Generate patient bills or third-party payer claims for reimbursement

d. Determine the extent and effects of occupational hazards

4. An HIM student asked an HIM director why the hybrid record is so challenging. What is the HIM director’s response?

a. It is because we are focusing on the EHR.

b. It is because we have to maintain all of the traditional HIM functions.

c. It is because HIM professionals do not have the skills to manage the EHR.

d. It is because we have to manage both the electronic and paper media.

5. What is the process of ensuring that a record is available for every patient seen at the healthcare facility?

 a. Overlap

b. Delinquent chart

c. Abstracting

d. Reconciliation

6. Dr. Smith dictated his report and then immediately edited it. What type of speech recognition is being used?

 a. Back-end

 b. Front-end

 c. Physician

 d. Outsourced

7. Critique this statement: Data and information mean the same thing.

 a. This is a true statement.

 b. This is a false statement because data is used for administrative purposes and information is used for clinical purposes.

 c. This is a false statement because data is raw facts and figures and information is data converted into a meaningful format.

 d. This is a true statement because information is raw facts and figures and data is information converted into a meaningful format.

8. Which information system will track information provided to a requester?

 a. Registry

 b. Quality improvement

 c. Chart tracking

 d. Release of information

9. The use of the health record by a clinician to facilitate quality patient care is considered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 a. A primary purpose of the health record

 b. Patient care support

 c. A secondary purpose of the health record

 d. Patient care effectiveness

10. Why is only the most current version of a document displayed?

 a. All previous versions are deleted

 b. To ensure there is no confusion on the correct document

 c. Only the physician has access to previous versions of a document

 d. The user decides which version to see

11. How do accreditation organizations use the health record?

 a. To serve as a source for case study information

 b. To determine whether the documentation supports the provider’s claim for reimbursement

 c. To provide healthcare services

 d. To determine whether standards are being met

12. How long should the MPI be retained?

 a. Permanently

 b. 25 years

 c. 50 years

 d. 10 years

13. Deficiencies in a health record include which of the following?

 a. Mistake in the patient’s age

 b. Missing document

 c. Contradictory content

 d. Illegible content

14. Critique this statement: Patient care managers are individual users of health records.

 a. This is a true statement.

 b. This is a false statement as they do not require patient information to do their job.

 c. This is a false statement as they require patient information to do their job.

 d. This is a false statement as patient care managers are institutional users.

15. Removing health records of patients who have not been treated at the facility for a specific period of time from the storage area to allow space for more current records is called:

 a. Purging records

 b. Assembling records

 c. Logging records

 d. Cycling records

16. Which type of microfilm does not allow for a unit record to be maintained?

 a. Roll microfilm

 b. Jacket microfilm

 c. Microfiche

 d. Micrographics

17. Which of the following is true about document imaging?

 a. Data in the scanned documents can be manipulated

 b. Scanned documents can only be viewed by one person at a time

 c. Outguides are required

 d. Documents can be indexed

18. Which system records the location of health records removed from the filing system and documents the return of the health records?

 a. Chart deficiency system

 b. Chart tracking system

 c. Abstracting system

 d. Registry system

19. “Loose” reports are health record forms that:

 a. Are maintained separately from the health record

 b. Are not part of the legal health record

c. Are received by the HIM department and added to the health record after it has been processed

 d. Are misfiled

20. Which of the following is the most efficient filing system?

 a. Serial numbering system

 b. Unit numbering system

 c. Serial unit numbering system

 d. Middle-digit filing system

21. Which of the following is the key to the identification and location of a patient’s health record?

 a. Disease index

 b. Outguide

 c. Deficiency slip

 d. MPI

22. Which of the following numbering system assigns multiple health record number, or, one per visit?

 a. Unit

 . Serial-unit

 c. Serial

 d. Alphabetic

23. In which numbering system does a patient admitted to a healthcare facility on three different occasions receive three different health record numbers but the content is filed under the most recent health record number?

 a. Unit

 b. Serial

 c. Serial-unit number

 d. Alphabetic

24. Which of the following is part of qualitative analysis review?

a. Checking that only approved abbreviations are used

 b. Checking that all forms and reports are present

 c. Checking that documents have patient identification information

 d. Checking that reports requiring authentication have signatures

25. Which of the following is true of good forms design for paper forms?

 a. Every form should have a unique identification number

 b. Barcodes are never included

 c. Bright color paper should be used to identify forms.

d. Paper size should be 8.5 inches by 14 inches