

ATTENTION: CHIMA MEMBERS...

CLINICAL TERMINOLOGIES AND THE HIM PROFESSIONAL

In February 2006, Canada Health Infoway's Electronic Health Record Standards Steering Committee selected SNOMED CT for evaluation and piloting as the Canadian standard reference terminology for use in the interoperable electronic health record (iEHR). SNOMED CT will be used for 27 priority Clinical Information Groups within the iEHR. Many other countries have already adopted SNOMED CT as their reference terminology. A common terminology standard for the iEHR will allow patient data from a variety of clinical settings to be converted to the same 'language', facilitating interoperability. SNOMED CT was recommended because it captures clinical information at a level of detail needed by clinicians for the provision of care in most healthcare disciplines and settings. Additional clinical terminologies will be investigated for use in the iEHR as SNOMED CT does not meet the needs of all users, e.g. nursing.

CHIMA was involved in the selection of SNOMED CT through participation by members on various committees. As part of this process, a task team made up of four CHIMA members completed a preliminary evaluation of multiple terminologies and provided input on areas of expertise of the HIM profession related to SNOMED-CT implementation in the iEHR.

CHIMA sees a role for certified HIM profession in the following aspects:

- 1) A thorough understanding of SNOMED and clinical terminologies
- 2) An understanding of the efficiency of coding tools
- 3) An understanding of the links between SNOMED-CT and other terminologies and classifications, e.g. ICD-10-CA/CCI
- 4) An ability to support different categories of SNOMED users - those who code directly, those who partly use it and those who do not use it directly.

It is imperative that certified HIM professionals increase their knowledge in the iEHR and clinical terminologies in order to move forward in the electronic environment. CHIMA is pleased to announce the provision of three online course offerings to help HIM professionals meet that need.

Three New Course Offerings

CHIMA, in partnership with AHIMA, will be offering three (3) web-based courses, beginning in April 2007

" Introduction to Clinical Terminology Systems

" SNOMED CT(r) Basics (produced by SNOMED International)

" Using Clinical Terminology Systems

Students have 4 weeks beginning on date of enrollment for individual course registrations; 12 weeks for the full 3-course program to complete the courses. An AHIMA Certificate of Completion and 4 continuing education credits will be awarded upon successful completion of each course. These education credits are of equal credit value for CHIMA members.

Price for each course is:

AHIMA/CHIMA Members: \$150 US

Nonmembers: \$180 US

Price for Complete Program:

AHIMA/CHIMA Members: \$360 US

Nonmembers: \$430 US

Further information on these courses including registration will be available on the CHIMA website at www.echima.ca under the Education and CPE section. We expect the course offerings to be available on the website by the end of April 2007.

If you have any questions regarding these courses, please contact Kelly.abram@echima.ca.

Submitted by:

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Best Regards,

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