Health information life cycle management: Interdisciplinary cooperation and leadership

Health information management has traditionally focused on development of standards for the medical record. With the move to an electronic environment, HIM practice now focuses on the content or information contained in the record—whether in one or many linked repositories to form a complete picture of care through an individual's lifetime. To support the transition to the EHR, CHIMA has led the development of HIM life cycle guidelines, using an interdisciplinary approach with HIM, nursing, medical, administrative and legal professionals. Seven stages of the life cycle were identified and developed consisting of: information management planning; data collection, capture, and receipt; organization; access, use, and disclosure; maintenance, retention, and protection; disposition; and evaluation. The HIM Life Cycle provides a policy framework for information management and facilitates consistency in HIM standards across the care spectrum.