



IFHIMA
International Federation of
Health Information Management Associations

The link to health records/information management around the world

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS (IFHIMA)

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP OF IFHIMA

The International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) supports national associations and individual health record professionals to implement and improve health records in their own countries and the systems, which support them. IFHIMA, formerly known as IFHRO, was established in 1968 as a forum to bring together national organizations committed to improvement in the use of health records in their countries. The founding organizations recognized the need for an international organization to serve as a forum for the exchange of information relating to health records, health information management (HIM) and information technology.

The purposes of IFHIMA are to:

- promote the development and use of HIM in all countries
- advance the development and use of international HIM standards
- HIM's education requirements and training programs provide opportunities for education and communication between persons working in the field of HIM in all countries
- promote the use of technology and the electronic health record

Membership of IFHIMA brings many benefits in the form of professional support and sharing of experience and knowledge and being part of an internationally recognised professional organisation, which is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) affiliated to the World Health Organization (WHO) and sharing its values.

Other benefits include:

For national associations, IFHIMA is involved in the following areas:

- Working to raise the profile and professionalism of the Health Information Management (HIM) profession at a global level;
- As a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) IFHIMA maintaining a productive and harmonious working relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO);
- Assisting WHO in making health information management related decisions at a global level e.g. coding of H1N1 (Swine Flu);
- Contributing to the development of revisions to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD);

- Assisting WHO in the development of tools to improve data quality e.g. web-based training tools for Clinical Coders;
- Assisting WHO in the certification of morbidity and mortality coders and trainers around the world (WHO-FIC-IFHIMA Joint Collaboration);
- Supporting and developing the HIM profession in both the developing and the developed world;
- Providing basic, generic education modules for Health Records Practice for use around the world;
- Attending overseas/international congresses that generates new and stimulating ideas for representatives of national associations to bring back for use at their own national congresses and other events;
- Hosting regional forums at international and national congresses is a very successful means to get members interested in international affairs and to encourage networking and the exchange of information on a global and regional basis;
- The exchanging of experiences and information in the field of education is essential for the HIM profession, especially regarding the process of the establishing Bachelors and Masters degrees in different countries around the world. It also provides input for national efforts to establish university degrees in the field of HIM, which raises the profile of the profession at a national level;
- Providing international articles of interest for the membership;
- Providing articles for use by HIM programs in training students in the use of English terminology and also to offer their students a wider view of the profession and career opportunities within it;
- National associations use the international connections offered by IFHIMA as a marketing tool to offering their own membership. They also believe that the international dimension gives national associations an additional professional facet, which makes it more attractive for potential members who want to learn about developments in their profession beyond their national boundaries.

For individual Associate Members there is the opportunity to:

- Serve on regional task groups, which is a unique personal and professional development opportunity
- Membership of IFHIMA obtain discounted registration fees for IFHIMA Congresses
- Network informally with Health Information/Health Records Management professionals and experts around the world;
- Receive regular copies of IFHIMA's Global News, which provides world-wide updates on the HIM profession

All of these benefits and activities provide a positive, professional focus for all HIM professionals and their professional associations on a global basis, which in turn serves to raise the profile of the profession and the people who work in it around the world.

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