



IFHIMA

**International Federation of
Health Information Management Associations**

The link to health information management around the world

What / Who is IFHIMA?

The International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) supports national associations and individual health information management professionals (HIM) to implement and improve health information management operations in their own countries and the systems which support the discipline. IFHIMA 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 information management 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
- provide for the exchange of information on HIM education requirements and training programs
- provide opportunities for education and communication between persons working in the field of health records/information in all countries
- promote the use of technology and the electronic health record

IFHIMA is a non-profit organization in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) as a recognized non-governmental organization (NGO). The Federation sends representatives to WHO meetings and works closely with WHO on specific projects of particular concern or interest to WHO in the field of health records and information systems. Currently IFHIMA is working on a project with WHO (the WHO-FIC Joint Collaboration) to certify mortality coders across the world.

IFHIMA activities include:

International Health Records Congress:

Every three years the Congress is hosted by one of the national member organizations. This is an opportunity to bring together member countries, other interested countries and individuals in an international forum to participate in educational sessions and networking opportunities.

The 17th International Congress will be held in Montreal, Canada 2013.

Web site:

The web site provides information about HIM activities in member countries. Interesting and informative articles on the latest health information standards and technology are regularly posted. IFHIMA Education Modules are available, which can be downloaded free of charge.

Education programs:

Educational programs and consultations may be provided to countries upon request. HIM educational tools are also available for the training of HIM professionals in the diverse area of health information management.

International Committees, Task Groups and Projects:

Members have the opportunity to serve on international committees, task groups or projects, which focus on health information management, health records, and the profession.

Benefits of IFHIMA membership

Membership of IFHIMA brings many benefits in the form of professional support and sharing of experience and knowledge. A benefit is also being part of an internationally recognised professional organisation, which is a NGO in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and sharing its values.

Other benefits for individuals and for national associations include:

- Raising the profile and professionalism of the Health Information Management (HIM) profession to a global level
- Maintaining a productive and harmonious working relationship with WHO
- Assisting WHO in making health information management related decisions on a global level
- Contributing to the development of revisions to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems
- Assisting WHO in the development of tools to improve data quality e.g. web-based training tools for Clinical Coding
- Providing basic, generic education modules for HIM Practice for use around the world
- Assisting WHO in the certification of mortality coders and trainers around the world (WHO-FIC Joint Collaboration)
- Providing future assistance to the WHO in the certification of morbidity coders and trainers around the world
- Supporting and developing the HIM profession in both the developing and the developed world
- Offering discounted member registration fees for IFHIMA Congresses
- Serving on regional task groups, which is a unique personal and professional development opportunity
- Networking informally with HIM professionals around the world
- Receiving regular copies of IFHIMA's Global News

All of these benefits and activities provide a positive, professional focus for all Health Information Management 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.

How can you become involved?

- **National Membership**
is reserved for national organizations in each country, which are representative of the national activities within the field of health records/information. The purposes of the organization must be compatible with those of IFHIMA. Only national members are entitled to hold office or vote.
- **Associate Membership**
is for individuals from any country who wish to support IFHIMA and become involved in its activities.
- **Corporate Membership**
enables companies working in the field of health records or related fields to join IFHIMA.
- **Honorary Membership**
is a special award to individuals who have earned exceptional merit in furthering the goals and interests of the International Federation.

All members are invited to attend the International HIM Congress, which is held every three (3) years. The 17th Congress will be held in Montreal, Canada, May 13th - 15th, 2013.

For more information, please visit our website www.IFHIMA.org

