

HEALTH INFORMATION POWERS INNOVATION

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AHIMA® HIP WEEK® 2023



Health Information Professionals:

Who Are They? What Do They Do?

Health information (HI) professionals play an integral role in modern healthcare organizations. Check out the information below to learn more about the role of the HI professional and the value they bring to healthcare. You may consider reaching out to the HI professionals in your organization to get acquainted and discuss how you can work together on common goals.

Q: How do HI professionals bring value to healthcare organizations?

A: HI professionals are highly trained in the latest management technology applications, so they understand the workflow process in healthcare provider organizations—from large hospital systems to private physician offices. They work with all healthcare providers and departments, including physicians, nurses, lab, radiology, and pharmacy staff, to help ensure patient information is correct and to promote patient safety through best documentation practices. They may also work for insurance companies, consulting firms, government offices, pharmaceutical companies, nursing homes, law firms, and colleges.

Q: What are the responsibilities of HI professionals?

A: The roles of HI professionals vary, but some responsibilities include analyzing data to help facilitate decisions and actions; implementing innovative data-driven solutions to improve patient health; collaborating with other departments in the healthcare system to reduce expenses through strategic data analysis; and designing and implementing tools to measure data, patient care effectiveness, and optimize processes.

Q: Who employs HI professionals? What kinds of jobs are available?

A: Organizations will search for someone with formal training and a professional certification. HI professionals are primarily employed by hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing homes, and government agencies. HI professionals work at the intersection of healthcare, technology, and business. They connect people, systems, and processes to help make sure that sensitive health data remains accurate, accessible, protected, and complete. Some typical job titles include Medical Records Specialist, Technician and Registrar, Clinical Data Manager, Data Scientist, and Medical and Health Service Manager. A career as an HI professional is right for you if you:

- Like diverse opportunities
- Enjoy working in healthcare but not directly with patients
- Have an aptitude for science but also like management, law, and technology
- Like to work with physicians, nurses, lawyers, administrators, and executives
- Want a career where you can choose to work on your own, with others, or both

Q: Are there any credentials required to work in this field?

A: There are different credentials required for different jobs. For example, a Certified Coding Associate must have a high school diploma. However, the recommended background is six months of experience or completion of an AHIMA approved coding program or completion of other coding training such as anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, and basic ICD diagnostic/procedural and CPT® coding. Additional AHIMA credentials include certification for:

- Documentation Improvement Practitioner
- Health Data Analyst
- Healthcare Privacy and Security
- Registered Health Information Technician
- Registered Health Information Administrator

With experience and education, your ability to rise through the ranks to management means that your annual salary will likely rise as well. Where you work can also determine your salary.

For more information, visit the AHIMA Certification and Careers [webpage](#).

