

Happy New Year!

SAVE THE DATE:

[go to Utah-himss.org](http://Utah-himss.org) for
[registration links and more
information](#)

January 15: Webinar

12-1pm

University of Utah:

**“Preparing for ICD-10:
Implementation and Utilization of
Computer Assisted Coding to drive
Coding Accuracy and Productivity,
Clinical Documentation, and
Quality Improvement”**

February 25: Utah Health

IT Day*

7:30-10am

Utah State Capital—Senate Copper Room

**“ACA Impressions Post
Implementation”**

**While we realize that this is during the
HIMSS national conference, we have
received special permission to accommodate
optimal participation by our State
representatives.*

May 21: UHIMSS Spring Conference

8am-4pm

Rice-Eccles Stadium, Tower Room 6th
Floor

President’s Message—Julie Beard

The year of 2014 is here and certainly going to be a year of momentous change with the continued efforts to implement Meaningful Use criteria, the transition to ICD-10 and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act that has long been anticipated. With the support and collaboration of each other, we will be able to accomplish what we may have thought not possible.

In December, we appreciate the IC3 Beacon webinar update hosted by HealthInsight, Dr. Sarah Woolsey, MD and Dr. Deepthi Rajeev, PhD, MS, MSc. Dr. Woolsey is the clinical lead for the Utah Beacon Community Project demonstrating using health information technology, significant improvement in diabetes quality measures and practice transformation for 53 Utah Primary Care offices. We are most fortunate to have Dr. Woolsey in contributing in our community. Dr. Woolsey was selected to enter the first class of the Innovation Advisor Program by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. Dr. Rajeev has a PhD in Biomedical Informatics from the University of Utah under a fellowship from the National Library of Medicine. Dr. Woolsey and Dr. Rajeev illustrated overcoming a number of data source challenges to obtain the necessary data and accomplish the Beacon grant objectives. It was insightful on the type of graphical presentation of the data that made the most difference in effecting a change. The recording of this presentation is available on the UHIMSS website.

We have some wonderful events coming up for your benefit and would encourage you to take the time to participate. See our “Save the Date” section for details.

This year I am very excited that for the first time, the Utah Chapter of Health Executives and the Utah Chapter of HIMSS are cosponsoring this Spring Conference Event. The Utah Healthcare Executives (UHE) is an independent chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). UHE membership includes a diverse representation of executives from hospitals, medical groups, health plans, consulting firms, and other healthcare-related institutions. UHE cultivates a tradition of ethics and excellence in the field of healthcare management.

The **Spring Conference** event will be held on **May 21 from 8:00 – 4:00 PM** at the beautiful **Rice-Eccles Stadium, Tower Room 6th floor**. The agenda will be packed with outstanding speakers, provide an excellent opportunity to network and learn about some of the exciting technology from our vendor sponsors. More details will follow.

Our Physician Member at Large Committee led by Dr. Jonathan Nebeker, VA is working on establishing a Chief Medical Information Officer committee to represent the needs of CMIO’s in our community. If interested, please contact Rudy Matthes@hsc.utah.edu.

As a reminder some chapters have created groups to help in CPHIMSS certification for members. If you are interested in being part of a group to aid in this process, please contact Rudy Matthes at Mathes@hsc.utah.edu.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your President. I appreciate the generous support, willingness to serve and diligent efforts of your talented Board. We now have all but 2 positions filled. We are well positioned to provide support to our member needs and help transform healthcare in 2014. I extend a warm welcome to our new members and encourage our current membership to inform your peers to become involved. I wish each of you a year of health, wisdom and fulfillment in your lives.

As always, I welcome your feedback at jjbeard1@gmail.com.

UHIMSS Highlight: University of Utah Health Care

University of Utah Health Care was awarded the 2013 Summit Award from 3M Health Information Systems, for their partnership and extensive efforts to implement 360 Encompass, a Computer Assisted Coding (CAC) and Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) system. University of Utah Health Care implemented 360 Encompass in March of 2013, becoming the first site in the country on 3M's Release 2 of the product. The 360 Encompass system will help ensure coding accuracy and productivity, and improve clinical documentation and quality measures through the transition to ICD-10 and beyond.

Over the years, University of Utah Health Care has evolved its CDI and coding efforts with the changing health care environment. With the introduction of health care reform initiatives such as ICD-10 and Meaningful Use, and the increase in publicly reported data, coding and CDI has again been forced to reinvent itself. The common thread between all these new initiatives and regulations is error-free, high-quality clinical documentation. High-quality documentation leads to improved clinical outcomes, accurate reimbursement, and a patient record that truly reflects the patient's acuity. While everyone must adhere to these new regulations, University of Utah Health Care is focusing its efforts on improving clinical documentation in a comprehensive way, addressing the root cause, which is not the system or the code, but the specificity employed by health care providers when they document. This focus allows the health care system to meet all of the regulatory challenges at the same time, but more importantly, to change behaviors among health care providers, which becomes the real long-term solution.

Tackling multiple initiatives without increasing staffing is a difficult task, and has forced University of Utah Health Care to become creative and work smarter. 360 Encompass has become a crucial electronic partner in more effectively driving these CDI efforts, ensuring timely coding to support hospital financial strength, and preparing the system for future challenges.

- Anita Willoughby—UHIMSS Membership Chair

Utah 2014 Legislative Session Preview

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! It's hard to believe the 2014 Legislative Session is almost upon us. While many of you may have been busy making new year's resolution, lawmakers have been busy prepping bills they hope will become law this year.

The Legislative Session begins January 27th, and as expected should be very busy on the Healthcare related front. The UHIMSS Advocacy Committee hopes to keep you up to date as the session progresses and provide you a preview here of two bills expected to be voted on this year. We may also issue "Calls to Action" on key legislation if needed. Our committee primarily monitors the Health and Human Services Committees both in the House and Senate via committee meetings open to the public.

Preview #1

Probably the most newsworthy bill will be one sponsored by Senator Stuart Reid (R - Ogden) he is interested in raising the legal age to consume tobacco from 19 to 21 (the age limit was raised in 2010 from 18). SB 12, "Age Limit for Tobacco and Related Products" is the bill he will use to try and move the legal limit. The argument Sen. Reid used was "Increasing the legal age of sale is likely to have a significant impact in reducing tobacco use among the young and limit their access to this highly addictive, deadly product. Young brains are still developing through the teen years and offsetting the daily use of tobacco products will reduce the addiction and dependency on nicotine. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile. It will save lives". During the committee hearing on it in November, Senator Todd Weller (R - Woods Cross) countered why 21 is any better or worse than say 25?

Preview #2

Representative Jim Nielson (R - Woods Cross) is bringing back a bill from last year with "Adoption Records Access Amendments". In last year's bill, Nielson was attempting to release original birth certificates of adopted children who were adopted before 1942, and allow birth mothers to release information if they so choose through the Utah State Office of Vital Statistics. Advocates argue that to deny an adult information related to who their birth parents are is unfair to the adopted child—not only from a psychological standpoint, but also in an age of increased genetic testing and knowledge of family history, poses a health risk. Opponents of the bill argue that the mother likely had good reasons to conceal their identity when putting their child up for adoption, and specific request for privacy should be respected.

- Paul Sanders—UHIMSS Advocacy Committee Chair