



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Health Administration  
Washington DC 20420**

**IL 19-2003-003**

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**September 12, 2003**

**CHIEF HEALTH INFORMATICS OFFICER LETTER**

**2003 VA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
and  
75<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AHIMA)  
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

1. The Annual Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Information Managers Conference is October 23, 2003, at the Courtyard by Marriott - Depot Hotel in Minneapolis, MN. This conference is in conjunction with the 75<sup>th</sup> American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) National Convention and Exhibit, October 18 through October 23, 2003, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.
2. The VA Computerized Patient Record exhibit in the convention center during the AHIMA conference provides an opportunity for VA Health Information Managers and other Health Information Management (HIM) professionals to review recent Veterans Health Administration (VHA) innovations. The VA HIM Conference includes sessions on the Health Data Repository, Imaging, a Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Update, Coding at Home, and an update on the status of the Copy and Paste Quality Improvement Project.
3. Health Information Managers play a vital role in VA's continued success. They are the key to the development of a computerized patient record that is a basis of patient care, patient safety, confidentiality, security, compliance, data quality, education, research, performance improvement, and organizational decision-making while ensuring VHA meets all legal and regulatory requirements. The resourceful use of data and information is a corporate asset. Health Information Managers direct sections of the organization responsible for capturing, validating, interpreting, analyzing, and reporting patient information in VHA's databases.
4. Attendance at both the VA HIM Conference and the AHIMA National Convention and Exhibit enables Health Information Managers to learn more about current information management activities, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance and Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) requirements, as well as attend sessions covering a wide variety of health care administrative and management issues.
5. Facilities are responsible for tuition, travel expenses and per diem. Lodging is available at the Courtyard by Marriott - Depot Hotel for VA attendees. Registration and travel instructions can be found at: <http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/conferences/hims/index.cfm>

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6. Exposing facility staff to new technologies and ideas promotes professional and program development to better meet our veterans' needs. Attendance of facility Health Information Managers at this conference is encouraged. Questions may be directed to Linda Nugent, Director, HIM, at 765-629-2330.

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