Health Information Management

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The principal role of a health information management professional is to ensure that the medical records of a patient are kept up to date and protected at all times. The HIM professionals are highly trained and understand the need to maintain workflow in a healthcare environment (*HIM Careers—Health Information 101*, n.d.). They serve as a bridge that connects all clinical, administrative and operational functions of a healthcare system. There are multiple careers offered to health information management. Health information managers are responsible for the security of medical health records and data of all patients. They are required to stay up to date with modern IT, legal information related to health systems, and management of plentiful complex data. Medical coders act as a liaison between billing office and healthcare provider. They review the patient’s record and assign suitable procedure codes and diagnoses. Healthcare data analysts are experts in computer applications and have to study and compile medical health data. Medical coding compliance auditors perform audits, that comprise of review of clinical documentation, physician billing accounts, administrative data, and coding records. Clinical documentation specialists manage service documents and clinical trials. They also keep charts and medical reports. Medical research analysts work in a team that conducts research, medical studies, and clinical trials. Medical records abstractors help the healthcare facilities in recordkeeping with the latest technology. They review data of the patient and extract important information that needs to be stored in electronic record systems.

The collaboration between nurses and the health information management professionals is critical because it enhances the knowledge of each other and also improve the process of decision making (Christensen & Larson, 1993). The nurses can communicate with the health information management professionals who provide factual information on the patients. The health information management professionals sort out the records, aid in the diagnosis, collect data, and store it for future reference. With their advanced knowledge of technology, they help lessen the burden of other healthcare professionals including nurses. Without proper communication, even minor medical error can cause serious and fatal issues (O’Daniel & Rosenstein, 2008).

References

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