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AHIMA and ISO/TC 215 Health Informatics Announce New International Standard

Health Information Privacy in Healthcare Organizations: Workforce Education Standard

CHICAGO – June 26, 2017 - The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 215 Health Informatics (ISO/TC 215) are pleased to announce the publication of a new educational standard, “ISO/Technical Report (TR) 18638:2017, Health Informatics - Guidance on health information privacy education in healthcare organizations” (URL: <https://www.iso.org/standard/63100.html>).

The standard covers (a) the concept of information privacy in healthcare; (b) the challenges of protecting information practices in the healthcare organization; and (c) the components of a healthcare information privacy education program. In addition, the standard specifies the essential educational components, within the context of roles and job responsibilities, required to establish and deliver a training program for supporting health information privacy in a healthcare organization. The standard is aimed at those responsible for planning, establishing, and delivering health information privacy education for healthcare organizations that are implementing privacy protection policies and practices.

AHIMA members contributed to the development of the ISO TR 18638 standard, in collaboration with experts from South Korea, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and the United States.

“This standard will be very useful as guidance to educate members of the workforce about privacy protection responsibilities in healthcare organizations,” said project lead Mee Jeong Lee, PhD, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, Dankook University, Cheonan, Chungnam, from South Korea.

“While privacy regulations across the globe vary, the concept of privacy (and its relationship to the associated concept of confidentiality) is a health information foundation. Education programs must ensure that all health professionals have the foundational knowledge necessary to protect the patients’ privacy. This ISO document provides guidance on the key learning outcomes that

will lead to both individual and societal awareness of the need for strong privacy education,” said Desla Mancilla, DHA, RHIA, Vice President, Academic Affairs and Certification, AHIMA.

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA is advancing informatics, data analytics, and information governance to achieve the goal of providing expertise to ensure trusted information for healthcare. www.ahima.org

ISO/TC 215 Health Informatics is a leading international standard development organization (SDO) with over 75 member countries and liaisons representing millions of healthcare stakeholders worldwide. The ISO/TC215 mission is standardization in the field of health informatics to facilitate the coherent and consistent interchange and use of health-related data, information, and knowledge to support and enable all aspects of the health systems. Since 2011, AHIMA provides Secretariat to ISO/TC215 and US delegation at ISO/TC215 - US Technical Advisory Group (TAG). <http://www.ahima.org/about/global?tabid=ISO>