

REGISTERED HEALTH INFORMATION ADMINISTRATOR

Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) serve the health care industry and the public by managing, analyzing, and utilizing data vital for patient care, and making it accessible to health care providers. They specialize in administering information systems, managing medical records, and coding information for reimbursement and research. RHIA are responsible for ensuring that health information is complete and available to legitimate users, while maintaining the security, privacy and confidentiality of patient information. RHIA also prepare health data for accreditation surveys and analyze clinical data for research and public policy. Some of the positions which a RHIA may hold include a HIM (Health Information Management) Department Director, a HIM System Manager, a Data Quality Manager, a Chief Privacy Officer, a HIM System Manager, a Data Quality Manager, a Chief Privacy Officer, a facility position in a HIM Program and Consultant.

As Department Manager, a RHIA supervises HIM department employees, which may include Health Information Technicians, Coders, and Medical Transcriptionists. State law mandates a hospital to have an RHIA or RHIT(Registered Health Information Technician) overseeing the operations of the HIM Department. In Alaska, most RHIA are department managers. Some are also consultants, chief privacy officers, data quality managers, or educators.

Where do registered health information administrators work in Alaska?



RHIAs work in hospitals overseeing the operations of the HIM Department. Other possible work settings include long-term care facilities, ambulatory care facilities, physician group practices, rehabilitation centers, behavioral health facilities, consulting and law firms, insurance companies, government agencies, software vendor companies and colleges or universities.



Hourly Wage Range*

\$20.67-\$62.08 (Mean \$40.83)

*based on Alaska DOL data for Medical & Health Services Managers



Years in School:

4 or more years*

*after high school graduation

Educational Requirements



- Graduation from high school with coursework in business, English, computer science, biology, chemistry and math.
- Graduation from a baccalaureate or master's degree program in Health Information Management. Some RHIA receive a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in a related health field and complete a one-year post-graduate certificate program. There are progression programs, some online, for RHITs who wish to complete additional coursework and write the national credentialing exam.

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no four-year RHIA programs in Alaska. There are programs in the U.S. offered via distance and web based delivery. There are also "progression" programs available that allow an individual with an RHIT degree to progress to an RHIA.

For a directory of accredited programs in the United States, visit the web site of the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education: <http://cahiim.org/directory/Index.asp>

State and National Contacts

State Contact:

Alaska Health Information Management Association
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Web site: <http://www.akhima.org>

National Contact:

American Health Information Management Association
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Information from: www.healthcareersinalaska.info Updated: September 24, 2008



developed by Alaska Center for Rural Health-Alaska's AHEC: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/acrh/>