



# Health Careers In Alaska

[www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info](http://www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info)

## Registered Health Information Technician

Registered Health Information Technicians (RHITs) are an essential part of the health care system. They provide crucial and detailed administrative services upon which health care facilities and practitioners rely.

Activities vary depending on the size and scope of the facility. These range from complete oversight and operation of the Health Information services to specializing in a particular part of the system. In most hospitals, the Health Information Department staff reports to a RHIT or a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA). RHITs may perform and provide supervision of all or some of the following tasks: transcription; filing/retrieval; assembly and analysis of patient records; coding and abstracting disease and procedural data; managing databases; and releasing

information. They may also perform utilization reviews, performance improvements, risk management, and trauma and tumor registry functions (cancer, diabetes, and trauma). Some RHITs function as Privacy Officers as well.

A Health Information Technician can become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) by passing a national certification examination (which can be done upon graduation from an accredited HIT program). These programs are listed on the CAHIIM website: <http://www.cahiim.org/accredpgms.asp>. While management opportunities are available to RHITs, it is unlikely that non-certified individuals will progress to management positions especially outside the state of Alaska. Usually larger health care corporations reserve management positions to RHIAs.

## Registered Health Information Technician Facts:

### Where do registered health information technicians work in Alaska?

All hospitals have an RHIA or RHIT overseeing the operations of the Health Information (Medical Records) Department. Other possible work settings include long-term care facilities, ambulatory clinics, physician offices, law firms, insurance companies, government agencies, educational facilities, and software vendor companies. RHITs with experience and advanced credentials in coding also work as consultants.

### Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school, with coursework in business, science, math, computer science, English and communications.
- Completion of a two-year program. Community colleges and universities conduct two-year programs and award an Associate degree.

### Hourly Wage Range:

\$12.90-\$26.20 (Mean \$18.99)

### Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

### Academic Programs in Alaska

The UAS Sitka Campus offers a distance delivered Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management degree program. For more information, contact:

#### University of Alaska Southeast, Sitka Campus

Leslie Gordon, Program Director

Phone: (907) 747-9747 or

Toll free: (800) 478-6653 ext 9474

Email: [leslie.gordon@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:leslie.gordon@uas.alaska.edu)

Web site: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka/programs/him.html>

### State Contact:

Alaska Health Information Management Association

Web site: <http://www.akhima.org>

### National Contact:

American Health Information Management Association

Phone: (312) 233-1100

Email: [info@ahima.org](mailto:info@ahima.org)

Web site: <http://www.ahima.org/>

