



Set the Record Straight with *On Assignment*

Health Information
Management

Beth Hearn,
CCS
Medical Coder



OA EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

I didn't originally plan a career in Health Information. My interest in healthcare began with wanting to be a nurse. While taking classes in nursing my fellow students and I were encouraged to become CNAs. After the birth of my first child, I went on light duty. That's when I started working with medical records. I was working in a nursing home at the time. I found that I enjoyed the paperwork side of healthcare more than hands-on patient care. This was during the time when nursing homes were big into rehab, medical necessity, and case mixes. I was exposed to documentation guidelines as well as medical necessity for lab work. Then in 1998, I transitioned from the nursing home setting to the hospital setting. Like many other coders, I started at the bottom and worked my way up. I learned about the bones that make up a Health Information Department. I was exposed to release of information, Joint Commission guidelines, filing, deficiencies, and then coding. I took classes and earned my CPC credential. By then, I was working as the lead at one of the satellite hospitals. There, in addition to the management duties, I was responsible for outpatient surgeries, emergency room, and diagnostic coding. After three years I relocated due to my husband's job. I began working at a new hospital and learned valuable inpatient skills, as well as interventional radiology. During my six years

(Continued on page 2)

In this Issue

- Main Article: 10 Ways to Enrich Your Life by Learning Something New
- OA Employee Spotlight
- Ask The Expert
- Did You Know?

10 Ways to Enrich Your Life by Learning Something New

By Ryan Stewart

"When I learn something new – and it happens every day – I feel a little more at home in this universe, a little more comfortable in the nest."

– Bill Moyers

We often get so entrenched in our daily routines that we forget to learn on a daily basis. Life-hacks, GTD, family, work, and social networking are all great ways to grow and enjoy life. They provide new experiences and insights while offering endless opportunities for daily learning.

But learning is best when it's gained through concerted effort. Here are ten simple ways you can learn something new every day.

1. **Ask.** Did you ever stop to consider why children are like little knowledge sponges? They don't allow pride to prevent them from asking questions. More than anything, asking questions is the number one way to learn more every day. And while I'm guilty of letting pride stand in my way when an opportunity to verbally ask a question presents itself, I often circle the wagons by searching for and reading about my question on the Internet. Then I can follow up with someone who is more knowledgeable on the subject and talk intelligently – which is often better than a one-sided lecture on a topic.
2. **Read.** Every day. If you have dead time, you have time to read. With the wealth of knowledge available online, there's never an excuse not to read. If a question comes to mind and you can't find an answer immediately, write it down for future investigation – this is a great way to build a reading list. If a question was powerful enough to make its way into your thoughts, it's likely the answer will be powerful enough to stick around too – so it'll be there when you need it.

(Continued on page 3)

ASK THE EXPERT

What is synthetic bone made of?

- Cement
- Ceramic
- Hydroxyapatite
- Natural polymers
- Synthetic polymers
- Tricalcium Phosphate
- Silicate Substituted Calcium Phosphate
- Wood – still under development (currently proven on animal trials and five-years out for human use) via heating, pressurizing, and the addition of calcium and phosphate. **Rattan wood** promises to be a revolutionary source as unlike all the above – it does not seem to need to be replaced, and is nearly identical in form and

HAPPY NEW YEAR





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OA Employee of the Month



Michael Gannon
Consultant
HIM Direct Hire Team

Relocating from New York to Florida, I attended University of South Florida and worked in the hotel industry for 11 years before joining On Assignment's HIM Direct Hire team. I've been interested in the healthcare industry since my college graduation. I'm both excited and motivated to continue growing with the wonderful world we know as Health Information Management. Rallying around me on my path to success has been the strong Direct Hire and Contract team at On Assignment HIM. I've found immediate gratification in learning the industry, understanding the complexity of overseeing the marriage between "the right job, for the right person," and realizing that I can make a difference on the part of the facility and in the lives of the very talented HIM professionals we cultivate.

I'm a lifelong New York Giants and Yankees fan, and also an avid traveler. My family is in New York, so I'm able to attend games when scheduling permits. Vacations in exotic places such as Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela, Chile, Margarita, Los Roques, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, Dominican Republic, and Mexico have also been a part of my itinerary for the past few years. I've been married for 11 years to my Venezuelan bride and have learned to appreciate the culture, food, beaches, and landscape of Latin America. I believe it's important to see other parts of the world to really understand your own!

After two amazing years of intensive training and education, I've learned not only the On Assignment way to meet our clients' and candidates' needs, but also how to help create a better quality of life for everyone involved in the process. I feel truly indebted and grateful to my colleagues who have given me the support, tools, and knowledge to be as successful as I am in this position as a Direct Hire Consultant. Looking to the future, I am both enthusiastic and excited to share the experiences and advice I have received since joining On Assignment last January.

(Continued from page 1, OA Employee Spotlight)

at this hospital I earned my CCS certification and went on to join On Assignment. I have really enjoyed the flexibility that working remotely has given me. I've been able to serve the same hospital client needs for several years. I am very thankful for my recruiter, Bryan Seshun. I have enjoyed these last four years, and look forward to many more.

People First.

On Assignment[®]
Health Information
Management

Remote Coding

On Assignment HIM provides a comprehensive solution for your remote coding needs. Remote coding provides a cost-effective solution at a dramatically reduced cost, enabling you to pull from some of the best coders in the industry who otherwise wouldn't travel onsite. This means access to some of the best coders in the industry!

How do we do it? We have partnered with Amphion Medical Solutions to use Themis, an Application Service Provider (ASP), that allows records to be accessed via the Internet. Coders are able to download assigned records from Amphion Medical Solutions secure data center and begin working anytime and anywhere. When they have completed their work, they simply submit the codes back to the hospital's abstracting system or send a coding summary sheet via the Internet. We have developed a process that is custom created for your facility. Remote implementation and application **can be set up in as little as one week's time.**

On Assignment HIM Remote Coding Solution provides:

Experienced remote coding staff that understands the unique needs of our clients when it comes to flexible scheduling, IT troubleshooting, and time.

- Scanner Management – we bring the scanner to you!
- Set up education and training supported by webinars for ongoing education.
- Coordinate the installation between HIM/Coding and your IT department.
- Proactively work to eliminate any roadblocks that may hinder the connection at your facility.
- Acclimate client and coder to the software.
- Trained coding staff.
- Improved coding turnaround times, which positively impact revenue cycles.
- Ability to monitor productivity.
- Tech support for troubleshooting questions.

HIPPA Compliant

One of the top priorities of On Assignment HIM is to help you maintain all compliance requirements. With security as one of the primary concerns with remote coding, rest assured that Themis is HIPAA compliant. Amphion Medical has implemented the tightest security measures that use encryption certificates, audit logs and multiple security layers.

About On Assignment HIM

On Assignment Health Information Management is a recognized leader in the health and life sciences staffing industry. For more than 25 years, we have built a reputation as one of the best in the business.

The On Assignment HIM division is solely dedicated to recruiting, retaining, and placing top Health Information Management professionals on Contract and Direct Hire positions throughout the United States.

Contact us: 800.364.4260
oahim.com



For more information regarding our \$500 referral bonus program, please email
kristin.walsh@onassignment.com



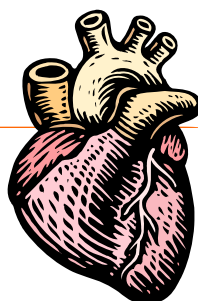
DID YOU KNOW?

Cardiac or pericardial tamponade is compression of the heart that occurs when blood or fluid builds up in the space between the myocardium (heart muscle) and the pericardium (outer covering sac of the heart).

In this condition, blood or fluid collects in the pericardium. This prevents the ventricles from fully expanding and the excess pressure from the fluid prevents the heart from functioning normally.

Cardiac/pericardial tamponade can occur due to:

- Complication of invasive or open heart procedures
- Dissecting aortic aneurysm (thoracic)
- End-stage lung cancer
- Heart attack
- Heart tumor
- Hypothyroidism
- Kidney failure
- Placement of central lines
- Radiation therapy to the chest
- Pericarditis (due to bacterial or viral infections)
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
- Traumatic wound to the heart



Featured symptoms include:

- Anxiety, restlessness
- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing or rapid breathing
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Fainting, light-headedness
- Low blood pressure
- Pale, gray, or blue skin
- Palpitations
- Positional discomfort
- Swelling of the abdomen
- Weak or absent pulse



TALK TO US

On Assignment HIM welcomes your feedback.
Please share your thoughts with us at
kristin.walsh@onassignment.com

(Continued from page 1, Main Article)

3. **Search.** Chase down answers to your most basic questions. Want to know what it means for coffee to taste “earthy”? Spend the next several cups of coffee exploring different flavors and aromas. Ask the barista what tastes you should be looking for in your next cup. No question is so small that it doesn’t have an answer worthy of you.
4. **Slow Down.** Stop running so fast. If you jump straight from the bed to the shower to the car to the office, you’re moving too fast to uncover the questions that life presents – much less their answers. Want proof? Experiment by riding your bike or walking to work one day next week. I promise you’ll notice things you’ve never seen before.
5. **Listen.** I mean really listen – to a lecture, a spouse, a parent, or even the lyrics of a song. Active listening promotes learning every single time we practice it. Great public speakers are great because they listen to the feedback (audible and otherwise) that they get from the audience and they respond to it accordingly. Active listening to music or nature will not only slow you down, it will teach you something new about the sights and sounds we often take for granted.
6. **Meditate / Reflect.** It’s like saying “slow waaaay down.” Believe it or not, some things can’t be learned from the Internet – or even the rest of the world. Some answers can only come from the inside out. Taking time to be still and pray/meditate/reflect is one of the best gifts you can give yourself – and it will make you a better learner.
7. **Look.** Also similar to slowing down, but quite different at the same time. Look at things from different perspectives (and I mean that literally). If you’re accustomed to seeing something close up, look at it from far away. When was the last time you used a microscope or a telescope? Do you remember when you last looked through a pair of binoculars . . . backwards? Look around and find something fun to examine.
8. **Taste.** One of the most enjoyable ways to learn new things is by taste. It can be as simple sampling a new type of coffee or espresso. Some of the most fun I’ve ever had has been trying new food with a group of friends. Taste and texture generate long-lasting memories. Describing them can be a very challenging exercise.
9. **Touch.** One of the most inspirational minds of modern times relied almost 100% on touch to learn about the world in which she lived. Helen Keller knew more about living a fulfilling life than most of us could ever imagine. Follow her lead and spend a few moments a day just noticing the temperature and texture of the things that surround you.

(Continued on page 4)



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? WHO KNOWS ?

Cardiac tamponade is an emergency medical condition that requires hospitalization as the fluid around the heart will need to be drained.

(A) _____ is a procedure that uses a needle to remove fluid from the pericardium.

(B) _____ is a procedure where part of the pericardium is cut and removed.

Send your answers to:

kristin.walsh@onassignment.com

All correct answers will be put into a raffle for a chance to win a \$25 gift card from On Assignment HIM!

(Continued from page 3, Main Article)

10. **Smell.** Memories of smells are long lasting due to the close proximity between memory centers in the brain and the terminus of olfactory neurons. Spending a few moments smelling new things can result in memories that last a lifetime.
11. **Bonus Tip: Write.** Similar to a gratitude journal, a knowledge journal is an attempt to take the ordinary events of a day and extract the most valuable learning experiences from them. Keep a notebook or journal documenting daydreams, thought experiments, and stressful times and you'll automatically solidify the knowledge you gained from each.

About the Author: Ryan Stewart is a Web geek, nonprofit junkie, and future medical student living in east Tennessee with his wife and two chihuahuas, Pedro and Gabby. He writes about lifelong learning as a means of practicing it – see bonus tip eleven.

<http://www.pickthebrain.com/blog/10-ways-to-enrich-your-life-by-learning-something-new/>



**December 2011
?WHO KNOWS?**

Theresa M.

Answers:
**Fusion; Arthrodesis;
Artificial Ankylosis;
Syndesis**

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“If you’re going to use a smartphone, I recommend a Blackberry. Blackberries are rich in vitamins and antioxidants.”