

What is Health Information Management?

Health Information Management is a profession dedicated to serving the health care industry and the public by managing, analyzing and utilizing data vital for patient care and making the data accessible to physicians, nurses and other health care providers when needed. Whether stored on paper or computer files, reliable health information is critical to high quality health care.

Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) (Formerly referred to as Medical and Health Services Managers)

- Are skilled in the collection, interpretation and analysis of patient data.
- Assume managerial positions related to these functions.
- Interact with all levels of an organization (clinical, financial, administrative) that use patient data in decision-making and everyday operations.

Registered Health Information Technicians (RHIT) (Formerly referred to as Medical Records and Health Information Technicians)

- Ensure the quality of medical records by verifying their completeness, accuracy and proper entry into computer systems.
- Use computer applications to assemble and analyze patient data for the purpose of improving patient care or controlling costs.
- Specialize in coding diagnoses and procedures in patient records for reimbursement and research.
- May serve as cancer registrars, compiling and maintaining data on cancer patients.

Where do Health Information Managers work?

Although most RHIA's and RHIT's work in hospitals, you will also find them in other health care settings including office-based physician practices, nursing

homes, home-health agencies, mental health facilities, and public health agencies such as the Department of Health. In fact, employment opportunities exist in any organization that uses patient data or health information such as pharmaceutical companies, law and insurance firms and health product vendors.

How can I get a job in the health information management field?

After high school...

You need formal training from an accredited health information management or health information technology program where you will receive either an associate degree (RHIT) from a community or junior college, or a bachelor's degree (RHIA) from a four-year college or university.

Is this the career for me?

Health Information Management professionals need to be decision makers and have strong computer skills. They must demonstrate academic aptitude and an ability to communicate effectively at all levels.

How much money do Health Information Management Professionals make?

	Average Yearly Salary
Registered Health Information Administrators (managers)	\$73,680
Registered Health Information Technicians	\$29,200

Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?

On average, there are 176 annual openings for Registered Health Information Technicians and 374 annual openings for Registered Health Information Administrators in Pennsylvania.

Where do I go for more information?

www.pahealthcareers.org

Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers

**901 North Seventh Street
Suite 103
Harrisburg, PA 17102**

**Telephone: 717-772-4966
Fax: 717-783-4660
www.paworkforce.state.pa.us**