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Review of: Health Information Technology Basics: A Concise Guide to Principles and Practice

Author: Thomas-Brogan, T.

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OVERVIEW

This book provides allied health students with an introduction to the health information management and technology (HIMT) field and the broad, expansive nature of the United States health care delivery system. A fundamental understanding of these concepts is necessary for all healthcare professionals. This text would be useful to all allied health students, especially in HIT certificate programs that have been erected as a result of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act 2009 (ARRA). As the title explicitly states, it is a concise work that introduces broad principles and practices of the providers, payers, and customers of the US healthcare system. This book describes the fragmented nature of the healthcare system and discusses its many settings. The healthcare system is summarized at a level understandable to entry level allied health students of all disciplines. Though succinct, this text provides a comprehensive overview of the many major areas that are vital to health HIMT students. This book introduces entry-level health information students to the many subsystems, elements, regulatory force, and end users of the health information with which they will be entrusted. A total of six chapters present this information in a clear, organized fashion.

CHAPTERS

Chapter one is titled, *Introduction to Healthcare Delivery Systems*. This chapter outlines the major issues and trends that currently affect the healthcare system in America. It distinguishes between settings where care is delivered with attention to diverse patient populations. Levels of care, physician specialties, and accreditation are also discussed.

Chapter two is the shortest chapter, titled *Acute Care Facilities*, and includes a more in-depth discussion on accreditation, particularly The Joint Commission standards and processes of acute care. Chapter two also lists four classifications of hospitals, discusses ownership, organization, and department function.

Chapter three, *The Health Information Technology Profession*, is the chapter that would most interest students because it allows the students to visualize what role they will eventually play in the delivery of healthcare, and how they will interact with other healthcare professionals. It gives an interdisciplinary view from the HIM perspective related to career opportunities, educational requirements, professional organizations, certification/ licensure, and professional development.

Chapter four, *The Health Record*, delineates the fundamentals of the health information profession. It provides a good overview of what future health information professionals must know to practice. The purpose of health records, formats, standards and requirements, and contents of paper and electronic health records are discussed. The Health Insurance Accountability and Portability Act (HIPAA) is also discussed at length.

Chapter five, *Medical Terminologies and Classification Systems*, is an introduction to medical terminologies and vocabularies such as SNOWMED and ICD-9. This chapter would be of particular interest to future coders. Chapter six, *Reimbursement Methodologies*, introduces the student to various types of managed care and insurance plans. This chapter does not go into great depth but does give a comprehensive listing of all insurance variations. At the beginning of each chapter key terms and objectives are presented.

OVERALL SUITABILITY / AUDIENCE

This text serves as an excellent foundation on which to build the knowledge, skill, and attitudes of students in the healthcare field. The book follows a logical organization and starts with broad and general concepts, then becomes more focused. The tables and figures illustrate important concepts and give examples of documents that allied health students should be familiar with. The text does not include review questions at the end of the chapters or assignment for the students to apply and practice their knowledge. These materials are, however, provided online in the instructor's manual. New terminology and concepts that the reader must be familiar with (objectives) are presented in boxes at the beginning of each chapter. HIM jargon is used, and then explained. The conversational tone makes this text pleasurable and informative reading.