

Health Information Manager

Own the medical record. Who can see it, whether it is correct, how it gets coded and billed, and what happens when a hospital changes systems.

TYPICAL PAY

\$123,860

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$73k to \$224k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Hospital records departments, clinics, insurance companies, soft...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology for the medical vocabulary, English for the writing, and any computer or database course you can get.
- 2 Accredited degree** 2 to 4 years
A two-year associate or a four-year bachelor's degree in health information management. It must be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education, or you cannot sit the national exam.
- 3 Professional practice experience** During the degree
Built into accredited programs: supervised time inside a real records department, learning the systems.
- 4 Pass the national exam** Weeks after graduating
The Registered Health Information Administrator exam for bachelor's graduates, or the technician-level exam for associate graduates. The administrator exam is 150 questions in three and a half hours.
- 5 Move up** 5 to 10 years
Technician, then supervisor, then manager or director. Privacy officer and compliance roles branch off the same track.

Pros and cons

- + A health career with office hours and no bodily fluids
- + Remote and hybrid work is genuinely normal here
- + Two-year entry point with a clear ladder to management
- The published median flatters it: entry jobs pay far less
- You enforce rules on doctors who outrank you and are busy
- Long stretches of detailed, repetitive checking

Good to know

The exam has a hard gate in front of it

You cannot simply study and sit the Registered Health Information Administrator exam. Your degree has to come from a program accredited by the national accreditor for this field. Pick an unaccredi...

Blocking someone's own records is illegal

Federal rules on information blocking mean a hospital or a software vendor can be penalized for getting in the way of patients and providers accessing health data. Health information managers are th...

Optional boosts

Privacy and security. Coding audit. Cancer registry. Health data analytics.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Medical and Health Services Managers (11-9111.00)
American Health Information Management Association: the Registered Health Information Administrator credential
Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education
HealthIT.gov, the federal office for health information technology

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/health-information-manager>



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