

OA Employee Spotlight

Kathryn Meyer
RHIT
Coding Consultant

I was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, and raised along with my three sisters and four brothers in a little town called Plainfield. After graduating from high school at the age of 17, I found myself living in San Antonio, Texas. Deciding to work my way back to Indiana, I left San Antonio and arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was there that I made my home for 30 years and met my husband of 22 years, Joe. When I married Joe, I became a wife and mother at the same time, later becoming a grandmother. I have four stepsons, five granddaughters, and one grandson.

Most of my time in New Orleans, I worked doing accounting jobs. It was while I was working for a chiropractor doing his coding as well as running his front desk that I met a coder working for a workmans' compensation company. She told me about the HIM Technology program at Delgado College and encouraged me to check it out, which I did, and enrolled in the Health Information course and took a full schedule – 12 to 15 hours per semester.

During this time I was President of Phi Theta Kappa, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Student Government Association, on the dean's list for the last two years, listed in Who's Who of American Colleges, and was enrolled in honors classes – all while working full time on the night shift at an area hospital, so I could put into practice what I was learning in class. I started as a file clerk and then moved to assembly/analysis. I earned my Associates Degree in May 2000, graduating with a 3.85 average, and attained my RHIT certification in October 2000. It was at this point that I started coding.

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Memorial Day 

www.history.com

Memorial Day, which falls on the last Monday of May, honors the men and women who died while serving in the American military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer. In 2012, Memorial Day is observed on Monday, May 28.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to honor the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several northern and southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, MS; Macon, GA; Richmond, VA; Boalsburg, PA; and Carbondale, IL.

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ASK THE EXPERT!

Neem (Azadirachta Indica) is an evergreen tree native to Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan; it has been introduced into many other subtropical regions. Used for well over 2,000 years, it is believed that all parts of this tree (especially the bark, leaves, and seeds, less frequently so, the root, flower, and fruit) have several unusual and varied medicinal and commercial properties. Many botanical products are made from the Neem tree.

It has been known to treat: leprosy, malaria, eye disorders, nose bleed, intestinal worms, stomach ulcers, stomach upset, loss of appetite, bile reduction, phlegm control, hemorrhoids, skin ulcers, skin disease, heart disease, gingivitis, oral plaque buildup, fever, cough, asthma, diabetes, birth control (spermicidal properties and weakened lining of uterus), and to cause abortions. It can be used as an astringent, tonic, insecticide (pest control for gardening, mosquito repellent, and head lice), and as a household cleanser/sanitizer. It has properties that make it an antiseptic, antipyretic, anti-infective, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-viral, antifungal, anthelmintic, contraceptive, and sedative reference.

Approximately 40 known chemicals produced by Neem act together, producing a seemingly synergistic and/or enhanced affect apparently beneficial to health issues. Only a few of these known chemicals are Azadirachtin, Nimbin, Nimbidin, Nimbidol, Gedunin, Sodium Nimbininate, Quercetin, and Salann.

Look for On Assignment HIM at these upcoming events:

Texas HIMA (TXHIMA)
Annual Convention, June 3-5
Galveston, TX
Booth #317

California HIA (CHIA)
Annual Convention, June 11-13
Santa Clara, CA
Booth #320

Stop by and see us for your chance to win a \$200 AMEX gift card!!



OA Employee of the Month



Andy Norrie
Account Executive
HIM Contract Team

I was born in Canada and moved down to Florida when I was 10 years old. I grew up mainly playing baseball and going to school. I attended Valencia College in Orlando and played college baseball for a couple years, then

went on to attend Florida State University after my playing days were done. I have three boys – Brandon 16, Hunter 13, and Blake 10 who also play many sports. Baseball seems to be their favorite sport. My middle son Hunter – who is a left-handed pitcher – is probably one of the top 10 players in the state of Florida. He is a great athlete and player. When I'm not working for On Assignment, I like to escape to my condo in Colorado where I enjoy snow skiing with my sons, my sister, and two brothers. The rest of the year, I'm either attending my sons' baseball games or sometimes coaching a team.

A little history about my family in Canada is that my grandmother was the first woman senator for the province of Nova Scotia, which was a very, very big accomplishment for her and she retired at the age of 75 from the Senate. My grandfather was a miner and he mined in a place called Amos, Quebec. He was quite successful and was inducted to the Miners Hall of Fame in Toronto, Canada. I also have an uncle who grew up on a potato farm in Canada. He started a frozen french fry business that took off. In fact, today they are the biggest french fry company in the world and is called McCain Foods. There is a lot of history in the family and success to go along with it.

I originally got into staffing back in 2000 when my best friend started a nurse staffing company and asked me if I wanted to be a part of their sales team. At the time I was a sales rep for a large grocery distribution company and didn't really know anything about staffing, but decided I wanted to learn and take on a new challenge and career. We opened the first offices in Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville. It took a few months to get the hang of things, but we rapidly started making a lot of headway and the business took off. During my 4 years in nurse staffing we opened over 15 offices.



After the business sold, I transitioned into H.I.M. with a large national staffing firm. After four years as an account manager with them, I was promoted to account executive and was one of the top 3 account executives among all divisions. While working for them, I learned the ins and outs of the staffing business.

In late 2010 I joined On Assignment HIM. I really have enjoyed working with the team at On Assignment HIM. Everyone has been so nice to work with and it has been a great time growing the HIM Contract division. I know that each week in HIM we set the bar higher and higher and we enjoy creating more opportunities for our HIM professionals. People ask me what I like about this business and it's really the relationship building with clients and the satisfaction that comes with finding positions for our consultants. It's what drives me every day. On Assignment HIM has the resources which allow everyone to achieve their goals and succeed. I look forward to growing with On Assignment.

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My first coding job was with a consulting company where I realized that I enjoy traveling. I spent two years with them coding inpatient, outpatient, ER, ambulatory, same-day surgery, and IVR charts. After learning that my mother's health was not good, I left them and moved back to Indiana to help her. I spent the next ten years in Indiana. I worked as an outpatient coder for five years for a group of five hospitals in Indianapolis, and then left them to work for another consulting company. I spent the next 13 months in Montana working at a critical access hospital and coding all of the Medicare inpatient, outpatient, clinic, surgery, and IVR accounts, along with PT and OT accounts.

After that assignment was over, I spent the next year applying for positions in Salt Lake City, UT; Kalispell, MT; Albuquerque, NM; and New Orleans, LA. I moved back to New Orleans after obtaining a job at a local hospital, where I coded inpatient, outpatient, and surgery, and started furthering my education and experience coding IVR's as a remote coder.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

(TLF) Talactoferrin alfa is a genetically engineered immunomodulatory agent (a substance that alters the immune response by augmenting or reducing the ability of the immune system to produce antibodies or sensitized cells that recognize and react with the antigen that initiated their production). This is a synthetic recombinant form of the human protein lactoferrin, which is normally found in body secretions such as breast milk, tears, mucus, bile, saliva, and in some white blood cells. Talactoferrin alfa increases the activity of dendritic cells (a type of immune cell) to help kill cancer cells. In clinical studies/trials, Talactoferrin alfa has been shown to stimulate the immune system. It seems to have anti-infective, antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties, in addition to antitumor activity.

Promising clinical studies have been conducted that show enhanced healing efficiency in:

- Renal and lung cell malignant neoplasms; oral administration
- Potentially being studied in other forms/sites/types of malignant neoplasms (primary and secondary metastasis); oral administration
- Severe sepsis; oral administration
- Diabetic neuropathy ulcers; topical administration

(Continued from page 1, Main Article)

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.

Several southern states continue to set aside a special day for honoring the Confederate dead, which is usually called Confederate Memorial Day.

This article can be found at:

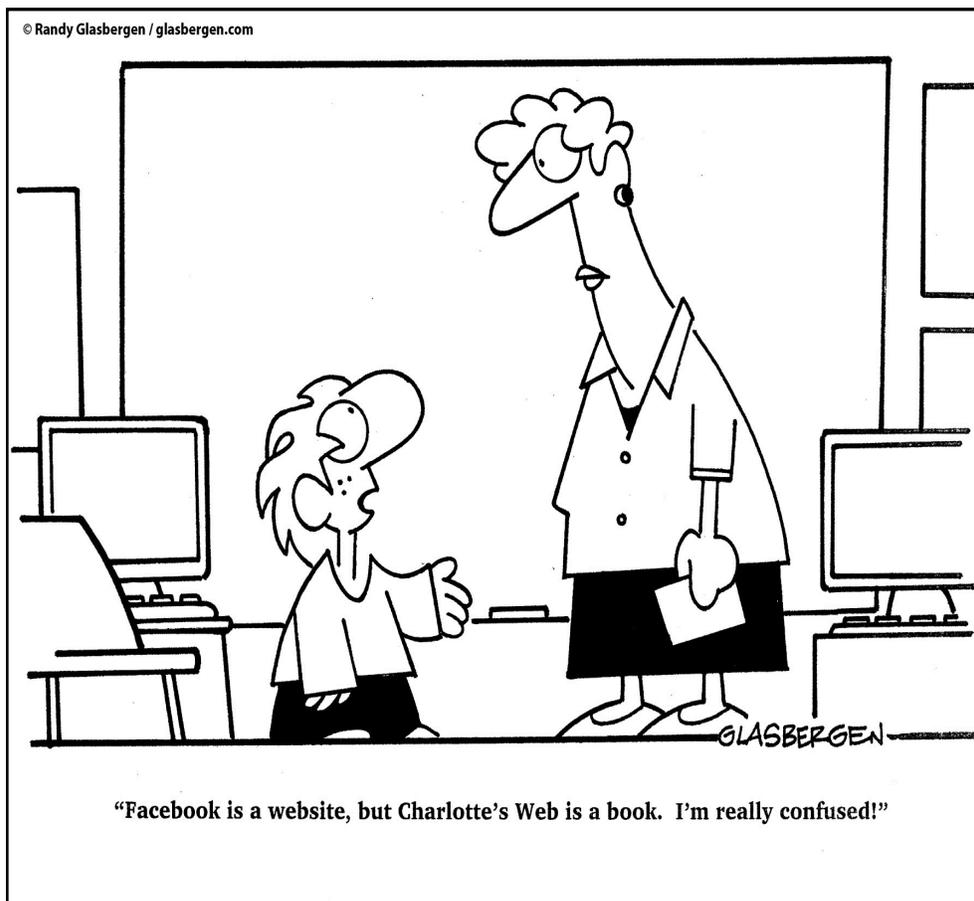
<http://www.history.com/topics/memorial-day-history>

TALK TO US

On Assignment HIM welcomes your feedback.

Please share your thoughts with us at

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Set the Record Straight with *On Assignment* Health Information Management

? WHO KNOWS ?

_____, a common form of neurotechnology, is a battery powered device designed to deliver electrical stimulation to the brain. It is an integral component of surgically implanted systems designed to treat a variety of neurological disorders. This neurotechnology is implanted within the patient's body and calibrated or programmed by a physician, nurse, or appropriately trained technician,

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!



Nate Haros, Director of Business Development at the Hawaii State Show, May 2012.

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

