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***What skills do HIM professionals have that translate to other fields? Please discuss non-traditional settings and the role the HIM profession can contribute to non-traditional settings.***

HIM professionals are individuals known to manage healthcare data and information resources. They plan, collect, aggregate, analyze, and disseminate individual patient and aggregate clinical data while maintaining confidentiality and overseeing release of information. HIM professionals are skilled in managing medical records and health information systems, summarizing data into useful information, and enhancing the quality and utilization of data within the entire healthcare industry.

Traditionally, there are job opportunities for HIM professionals in diverse healthcare settings such as hospital's HIM department, tumor registry, trauma registry, risk management and physician's offices. However, the knowledge they possess transcends these traditional job settings; therefore, they can also find opportunities in several non-traditional settings. These other non-traditional settings are discussed below:

***Government Agencies:*** Opportunities for HIM professionals in government agencies are varied depending on the organization. A job description for a Health Information Specialist on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website states that, "[s/he collaborates with public and private health partners to develop and evaluate approaches for the standardization, collection, integration, and sharing of national health data and information systems.]"

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**Law Firms:** HIM professionals are knowledgeable about HIPAA law. Therefore, they can work in law firms, providing HIM expertise on health law. Additionally, they can help oversee federal and state regulations concerning health care.

**Consulting Firms:** An HIM consultant's knowledge of different subject matters allows them the expertise to work with decision makers of the healthcare industry such as executive board members, administrators, risk management professionals, clinical researchers and other healthcare professionals. Working with a consulting firm, a HIM professional is able to work with various clients providing HIM expertise.

**Correctional Facilities:** The roles and responsibilities of a HIM professional in a correctional setting are similar to those of any other HIM professional in other settings. They will be expected to maintain inmate health records, perform quality reviews and assist in research studies for use by different organizations and government agencies.

Trained in statistics and data management, HIM professionals can also find job opportunities in healthcare research as statisticians, clinical trial coordinators, and data managers. Some specific responsibilities HIM professionals will have as statisticians is to apply statistical techniques and methods in the processing, management and analyses of data, and also documents methodologies and procedures used in the compilation and analysis of data.

With the advent of technology, HIM professionals will find their skills translate into IT by working with software vendors to design clinical software, provide EHR training to staff and provide system support. They will also be involved in the implementation of security and confidentiality measures, while developing policies and procedures to support personal health

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records. This will enable them to find positions as system analysts, project managers, software designers and various other positions.

In conclusion, it is important to note that as the world of health information continues to expand, HIM professionals will begin to find more roles and job opportunities outside of traditional settings. Therefore it is imperative for them to enhance current skill sets that they possess while developing news skills to accommodate this new and exciting, yet challenging era in the field of Health Information Management.