

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, please contact:

Mike Bittner

312-233-1087

[Michael.Bittner@ahima.org](mailto:Michael.Bittner@ahima.org)



## Patient ID Now Coalition Hosts Annual Patient ID Day

**CHICAGO – March 24, 2021** – [Patient ID Now](#), a coalition of leading healthcare organizations, including the [American College of Surgeons](#), the [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA), the [College of Healthcare Information Management Executives](#) (CHIME), [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) (HIMSS), [Intermountain Healthcare](#) and [Premier Healthcare Alliance](#), is hosting a virtual Patient ID Day on Wednesday, March 24th.

The coalition is bringing attention to the critical challenges of patient misidentification that afflict the country's health system. Failure to accurately identify patients to their data raises patient safety and quality of care concerns, and those concerns have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. An archaic section of the federal budget has prevented the US Department of Health and Human Services from working with the private sector to develop a nationwide patient identification strategy, and today member organizations of the coalition are highlighting this issue to Capitol Hill and on social media.

The push to repeal this ban within the federal budget has gained steam in the past two years, and leadership from Rep. Bill Foster (IL-11) and Rep. Mike Kelly (PA-3) has resulted in the ban being lifted twice in the US House of Representatives' Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bills. The US Senate has not yet followed suit to address the dire issue of patient misidentification, leaving the health system without a comprehensive, nationwide strategy to protect patients and ensure accurate health information.

Today, the Patient ID Now coalition's outreach efforts underscore the effects patient misidentification has had on the health system and patients during the pandemic, from lost COVID-19 test results, to mismatched vaccination information, to duplicative tests. Follow the coalition's efforts on its Twitter ([@PatientIDN](#)) or through the hashtag [#patientIDnow](#).

###

## **About Patient ID Now**

[Patient ID Now](#) is a coalition of healthcare organizations representing a wide range of healthcare stakeholders committed to advancing through legislation and regulations a nationwide strategy to address patient identification. Founding members include the [American College of Surgeons](#), the [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA), the [College of Healthcare Information Management Executives](#) (CHIME), [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) (HIMSS), [Intermountain Healthcare](#) and [Premier Healthcare Alliance](#).