2023 | V5-01
Brand Identity Standards
CORPORATE EDITION

hfma
healthcare financial management association
An important strategic component of the HFMA brand is our corporate logo, and the purpose of this document is to help promote consistent application of the logo and visual standards. These guidelines create a framework to ensure consistency across the channels which make up HFMA’s organizational identity; in other words, our brand.

These guidelines contain the basic information necessary for maintaining a consistent visual style for the Association’s chapters, and its affiliates. The look of HFMA is a reflection of our principles and commitment to the healthcare financial management profession.
BRAND MESSAGING
Our Communication Pillars embody the HFMA brand. By featuring these pillars throughout our content, our stakeholders will know and trust HFMA as a leading voice in the industry.
EXPERT

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Knowledgeable, respected, informative, trusted, credible, aware, alert, & forward-thinking

to help you meet today’s challenges while creating a sustainable healthcare industry.

• Explain the meaning and insights from research – not just stating facts.
• Simplify the complex - When it comes to complex ideas, issues, terms
  and situations leverage info-graphics, charts, images, etc., to help the audience
  understand the details.
• Quote and embrace sources – even if they aren’t you. Being an expert means being
  okay to admit when others know better than you.

WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN.
Overly scientific, pretentious and without humanity.

• Avoid focuses too much on the mechanics or data of the issue – be human.
• Assuming your audience doesn’t know any better.
• Steer clear of clichés and overused metaphors they will dilute your voice.
Brand Messaging
COMMUNICATION PILLARS

DIRECT

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Clear and concise. Limited use of buzzwords or jargon. State things plainly.
We get to the point and respect your time, done without fluff, pragmatic but not rude.

• Be focused and get to the point.
• Plan your key messages and action points before you create the content.
• Stick to one theme at a time.
• How can you be as straight-forward as possible without losing impact?
• Consider your content format: To be direct with this subject matter – what format would be best?

WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN.
Aggressive, it’s not obscure or elusive. It doesn’t waste time getting to the point.

• Avoid using a passive voice.
• Avoid repetition and try and keep bodies of copy to short paragraphs and no jargon.
Brand Messaging
COMMUNICATION PILLARS

OBJECTIVE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Content should explore the different perspectives in the industry without shutting them down. We take a position of understanding to help our audience navigate the complex industry.

- Focus on current affairs.
- Emphasize relevance to the situation.
- Be a voice of reason.

WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN.
Taking a political, controversial or unexpected point of view.

- Avoid ignoring current market situations or realities.
- Avoid subject matter or topics that are likely to be forefront in the audience’s mind.
USEFUL

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
All content is created to fulfill an audience need and is focused on solving a problem or providing guidance. Our offerings are accessible/digestible, relevant, timely, personalized, easy to use/consume, find/discover, and enjoyable.

• Provide real world examples and use cases – provide references.
• Think about the audience - What part of this is the most important to them? What problems can they use this to solve?
• Provide tools, takeaways and other modular content to enable the audience to leverage the material more easily.
• Provide a concise summary of the key points.

WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN.
Patronizing, dumbed down or filler.

• Avoid over explaining areas that most of the audience would already understand.
• Avoid content that cannot be supported with practical example.
Brand Messaging

VOICE

ACTIVE
Avoid passive voice.

SIMPLE
Avoid slang and jargon; write in plain English.

POSITIVE
Avoid using negative language.

Our Communication Pillars represent the Voice of HFMA, and are consistent throughout our content. One way we write empowering content is by being aware of our Voice and Tone.
Brand Messaging

TONE

INFORMAL
Be clear, but not casual.

STATE OF MIND
Is the audience learning, or seeking advice?

Unlike our Voice, our Tone may change depending on the topic we are writing about, or the audience we are engaging with.

HFMA’s tone is usually informal, but it’s always more important to be clear than casual.

When you’re writing, consider the reader’s state of mind. Are they looking for advice, or do they just want a straight, objective answer?

Do they want to read and learn, or participate in the conversation as well? Are they confused and seeking our help? Once you have an idea of their emotional state, you can adjust your tone accordingly.
Brand Messaging
PERSONAS

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT
FINANCE PRO CLINICIAN

Our members/customers interact with our content based on professional expertise and role. They demand current, job-specific, and in-depth information. This relates to our members’ need for continuing expertise in their jobs. Essential to their professional success is the need to understand the business environment, make change happen, and lead others.
EXECUTIVE

OVERVIEW
Mid 40’s – Mid 60’s. Likely married with children. Bachelors and Master’s and/or CPA, CMA, FHFMA, or FACHE. Has had many roles within the industry and is very knowledgeable.

GOALS:
• Company growth, job retention, staff growth and education.
• The executive is focused first and foremost on providing leadership and direction to make the company successful and the staff as effective as possible.

FEARS:
• Being unknowledgeable or blindsided by external factors.
• Falling behind the industry. Not having the right support and execution staff.

SUBJECT MATTER:
• Personnel management, growing staff abilities, information about where the industry is heading and how to address ongoing issues.
• Industry drivers and trends, such as, impact of regulatory and legislative initiatives; strategic planning, both long-term and shorter-term; governance; financial and reimbursement models and impacts; profitability.

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES:
Summary emails, short lists, ability to connect with other leaders, insights and analysis, case studies illustrating strategies, tools to be used for presentations to staff, executives and board members.

VALUES:
Time saving resources, straightforward communication, analysis, and tools and content that can be used immediately.
COMMUNICATION PERSONAS

MANAGEMENT

OVERVIEW
Late 20’s – Mid 40’s. Likely married with children. Bachelors and potentially Master’s degree, and/or CPA, CMA or CHFP. Broad scope of experience, from just starting to manage people to looking for opportunities to move up to the next management or executive level.

GOALS:
Continued professional growth and industry knowledge. Eager to prove their contribution is valuable and has the company’s best interest at heart. Committed to the industry and feels very knowledgeable about the subject matter they have encountered during their career.

FEARS:
Wasting personal time. Appearing unknowledgeable in front of peers/supervisors/direct reports. Not being prepared for next advancement or growth opportunity that presents itself.

SUBJECT MATTER:
Executive presence, personnel management, growing as a leader, improving their personal skills, staying on top of healthcare finance industry trends and changes.

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES:
Summary emails, short lists, job aids with reusable content, audio and presentable material.

VALUES:
Time saving resources, straightforward communication and job aids that can be used immediately.

Help me build my staff’s competencies, and help me grow professionally to make change happen.
COMMUNICATION PERSONAS

FINANCE PRO

OVERVIEW
Early 20’s – Mid 40’s. Likely has formal education focused on business, finance or accounting (Bachelors to Master’s degree) and potentially a certification (CPA, CMA, CRCR, CHFP).

GOALS:
• Continued professional growth, learning and career advancement. Eager to prove their contribution is valuable and has the company’s best interest at heart.
• Not yet committed to the industry, but feels comfortable with the knowledge they have to perform their current role.
• Interested in networking with management and executives within the industry.

VALUES:
Knowledge-building resources, technical guidance, certifications and additional training to boost professional status. Low cost, high ROI.

FEARS:
• Missing regulatory requirements, incorrect information, missing out on new ways of tackling challenges, not having the right tools.
• Lacking skills needed to be considered for advancement opportunities.

SUBJECT MATTER:
Financial topics, regulatory concerns or answers; healthcare finance industry trends and changes.

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES:
Straightforward and simplified tools and job aids. Detailed reports and analysis to increase working knowledge of current and future topics, challenges and changes.
Communicating

Personas

Clinician

Overview

Late 20’s – Mid 50’s. Formal medical training, medical, or nursing school (likely physicians, nurses or other advanced practitioners). Dedicated to caring for people. Likely employed by a larger integrated health system, a large independent specialty group or a health plan.

Goals:
- Either has aspirations or currently has a role beyond just clinical care, either in administration or a population health focus.
- Improve productivity but not to the extent it impacts patient care; reduce cost of care, time with patients, administrative burden; improve clinician satisfaction.

Fears:
- Incorrect information, untrustworthy data/studies, missing out on new ways of tackling challenges, not having the right tools.
- Loss of autonomy in clinical practice. Administrative hassles/increasing burden.

Subject Matter:
Patient health, patient outcomes, business health, reducing costs of care, quality of care, care models, population health, patient safety.

Communication Preferences:
- Options and easy-to-digest information (40-minute on-demand programming, just-in-time education, case scenarios, etc.).
- Content stratified by their clinical purview (specialty, role, type of facility they work in). Content delivered by their peers (other clinical leaders).

Give me the practical finance knowledge so I lead clinical leaders to improve quality and decrease cost of care.
GUIDING QUESTIONS

GUIDING QUESTIONS HELP CONTENT CREATORS AND AUTHORS BETTER DELIVER THEIR MESSAGE:

• What is the experience level of the person who will read this? (i.e. Understanding, Application or Mastery)
• Why would the reader want or need to read this?
• What is the key takeaway we want the reader to have?
• What tools or aids can we provide to help them put this into practice?
• What is the best format to deliver this message?
BRAND IDENTITY
The logo consists of the HFMA logo mark and can include the full company name.

**Think of it as an introduction.**
The primary instance of the logo should only contain the letters, HFMA. If the communication is targeted towards an audience that may be unfamiliar with HFMA, or allows for a longer message, the logo with the full name can be used.

Legal sign-offs should use the logo with the full name.

**Space to shine.**
Whether applying the logo to print applications or new media, space around the logo will help maintain integrity and legibility. The clear space gives the logo importance in situations where it exists among other graphic elements. It is important to be conscious of the amount of space and to keep it clear of other elements.

**Not too small, please.**
The logo will be used in a variety of applications: banners, brochures, websites, social media, etc. Adequate sizing is critical to maintain legibility.
Keep it focused.
The primary color is dark blue, PMS 294C. The HFMA logo, and sub-brand logos (See page 23.) may appear only in the primary color, white, or black. Accent colors may be used to draw visual attention, or indicate functionality. These colors may be reproduced with spot or process inks. CMYK, RGB, and hex values are included.

There’s plenty of room.
The secondary colors provide muted selections that extend across the color wheel from blue to yellow. The neutral colors scale in value while maintaining their cool hue.
The HFMA logo may appear only in the following colors:
Primary Dark Blue
Black
Knockout (white)

Off Brand Background Colors: Use either knockout or black versions of the logo when placing over a color that is not within the HFMA color palette. Discretion should be applied to maintain contrast and legibility.
A picture says a lot.
Brand integrity is critical in maintaining unity and limiting confusion across channels. The positioning and relationship of the graphical elements is prescriptive and purposeful.

Here you will find the most common mistakes that should be avoided.
We can all get along.
Digital media offers a wide variety of application sizes, and technical attributes. The following are examples of expectable brand guideline infringements when space and size are constrained.
HFMA’s Brand Identity covers a wide range of content and offerings. In an effort to focus attention, this content is divided into sub-brands. This level of organization allows our audience to quickly identify our content.

What makes it special?
An HFMA sub-brand is an offering that is unique. The content is focused on a specific subject or objective.

Not everything is unique.
The medium that distributes content does not dictate branding. HFMA content may be consumed in a number of ways; print, digital, social gatherings. This distribution and consumption is not a brandable attribute.
Brand Identity

NON-SUB-BRANDS

Sub-brand family members
HFMA offers a number of products that are important to their audiences, however they do not rise to the level of a sub-brand. This distinction provides a brand hierarchy that communicates area of focus, while maintaining product organization.

Sub-brands and their children

ONLINE EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS
- CERTIFIED HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL (CHFP)
- CERTIFIED REVENUE CYCLE REPRESENTATIVE (CRCR)
- CERTIFIED REVENUE CYCLE REPRESENTATIVE – GCC
- CERTIFIED SPECIALIST ACCOUNTING & FINANCE (CSAF)
- CERTIFIED SPECIALIST BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE (CSBI)
- CERTIFIED SPECIALIST PHYSICIAN PRACTICE MANAGEMENT (CSPPM)
- CERTIFIED SPECIALIST PAYMENT & REIMBURSEMENT (CSPR)

HFMA
- HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL STRATEGIES
- HFMA DAILY
- COST EFFECTIVENESS OF HEALTH REPORT
- LEADERSHIP
- REVENUE CYCLE INSIGHTS
- THE BUZZ

SUB-BRAND CHILDREN BRANDING EXAMPLES

RCI eNEWSLETTER
HFMA DAILY eNEWSLETTER
THE BUZZ eNEWSLETTER
Sub-brand family members
HFMA certification products are represented by a digital badge. This allows recipients to display their credentials to their peers, either on their social networks, or in their digital communications.

When a certification is a prerequisite for another, those pairs share a color.

Digital Family
CERTIFICATIONS
- Certified Revenue Cycle Representative (CRRC)
- Certified Revenue Cycle Representative - GCC (CRRC-GCC)
- Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP)
- Certified Specialist Business Intelligence (CSBI)
- Certified Specialist Physician Practice Management (CSPM)
- Certified Specialist Accounting & Finance (CSAF)
- Certified Specialist Managed Care (CSM)

CERTIFICATES
- Patient Access Essentials (PAE)
- Patient Financial Communications (PFC)
- HFMA Business of Health Care® (BOH)
- IHF - HFMA Business of Health Care® (BOH-IHF)
- Operational Excellence (OE)
- Fellowship
- Fellow Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMFA)

Usage
Digital badging only applies to an individual. Its usage is encouraged when it cites an individual’s credentials, such as an email signature, or social profile. Its usage cannot apply to an entire company. It is not appropriate to apply the digital badge to promotional items.
Equal but not the same.
HFMA partners with peer organization on joint efforts. When presenting this relationship, it is important to maintain the guidelines contained in this document, including color and clear space.

When co-branding avoid the following:

• The HFMA logo color may be dark blue, black, or knockout. The HFMA logo never inherits another logo’s colors.

• The logos should appear equal in terms of size and visual weight.

• The logos should not appear visually as one unit.
Brand Identity
MEMBER AND MEMBER ORGANIZATION LOGOS

LOGOS

LOGO KNOCKOUT
When required, the logo may appear as a knockout.

LOGO MINIMUM SIZE
Do not reduce the size of the logo smaller than the above examples.

COLORS

ALTED ARTWORK

OUT OF PALETTE COLORS

The individual and organization logos consist of the HFMA logo mark and a work mark with the year.

Space to shine.
When applying the logo, space around the logo will help maintain integrity and legibility. The clear space gives the logo importance in situations where it exists among other graphic elements. It is important to be conscious of the amount of space and to keep it clear of other elements.

Not too small, please.
Adequate sizing is critical to maintain legibility.

Usage
There are three Business Partner logos.

The Business Partner Individual Member logo can be used by any individual business partner member.

The Business Partner Enterprise Organization logo is to be used by a business partner organization that has a current Enterprise Solutions contract with HFMA - it’s intended to be used to reflect a company’s involvement with HFMA, not an individual.

The Provider Enterprise Organization logo is to be used by a provider organization that has a current Enterprise Solutions contract with HFMA - it’s intended to be used to reflect a company’s involvement with HFMA, not an individual.
Brand Identity

MEMBER AND MEMBER ORGANIZATION LOGOS APPLICATIONS

Usage

Organization logos can appear on items like corporate stationary. Individual member logos may appear on business cards, email signatures, LinkedIn profiles, and similar. Logos may not be used on corporate marketing materials or promotional items.
Brand Identity
BUSINESS PARTNER MEMBER ORGANIZATION LOGO APPLICATIONS

Usage
The HFMA Business Partner Member Organization logo only applies to a company. Its usage is encouraged when it represents a company's relationship to HFMA. It is not appropriate to apply the logo to individual’s credentials, such as an email signature, social profile or promotional items.

BUSINESS PARTNER MEMBER ORGANIZATION USAGE EXAMPLES

Jane Smith
ABC Company
Certification Operations Administrator
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The letters' shape matters. Typography is a major asset to any identity and branding guidelines. HFMA uses three typefaces, Nobel, Lato, and Filosophia, which work well with each other yet have different functions.

Nobel is a strong sans-serif typeface that has four weights that are included in our identity: Light, Book, Regular, and Bold. This family of typefaces should be used for all typography.

Sans Source Pro and Biter are free Google Web fonts that are reserved for digital usage. Web fonts are designed to render more accurately in pixel-based media.

Mallory is a sans-serif typeface that is used primarily in the hfm publication.

Acta Poster is a display typeface. Its usage should be selective where it provides a unique personality.

Filosophia is reserved for HFMA sub-brand logos. Its usage outside of that function dilutes the brand identity. It is not to be used outside of sub-brand logos.

Licensing
Font usage is controlled via licensing. If the Biter, Nobel, Mallory, and Sans Source Pro fonts are not available, Arial or Helvetica may be substituted.
What is not in the frame means as much as what is. Photography can be a valuable extension of a brand’s voice. What cannot be said in text can be conveyed through visual communication and interpretation.

Depth of field, spatial control, subject matter focus, and cropping are all important aspects of photography.

HFMA photography should:

- Utilize a short depth of field, with attention to bokeh;
- Feature clean, simplified environments, with attention to architecture and set styling;
- Cropping should focus attention to the subject and create dynamic areas of visual interest;
- Subjects should reflect a diverse audience. Subject posture should be natural, not composed or forced.

Knowledge-based interactions in both large scale and intimate settings.

Eliminate the clutter and provide clarity, confidence, and reassurance.

People using technology to facilitate real solutions.
Members make it happen.
Our members are a diverse community that represent a vibrant spectrum of healthcare finance professionals. Featuring them in marketing efforts conveys an authentic, honest message.

HFMA member photography should:
- Capture actions in real-world, professionally appropriate situations;
- Follow the same photographic aesthetics found in HFMA lifestyle photography (see previous page.)

HFMA member photography should NOT:
- Portray members in an unfavorable light;
- Be used without expressed consent;
- Feature patients to ensure HIPPA compliance.
Keep the story in your message.
Visual metaphor is a powerful method of reinforcing ideas and messaging. There is a direct relationship between the strength of message and simplicity of image.

A visual metaphor is an object that represents an idea or action. It is not a story, or a still life photo. It is important to keep in mind that although visual metaphors’ subject matter do not reflect the HFMA brand, their style and approach can reflect the HFMA voice and tone.

*Singular idea or concept.*
*Not a narrative.*
*Isolated object.*
Speak fast and command attention. HFMA’s subject matter can be complex and nuanced. Visual metaphors and analogies are powerful methods to quickly communicate content through simple ideas.

When selecting imagery for such usage, keep in mind that more variation, in terms of style, composition, and voice is allowed. Metaphors and analogies can be clever, emotional, and humorous. Featured content can reflect existing articles and artwork.
Brand Identity

PROMO ITEMS

Promotional Items
The HFMA branding may be applied to various promotional items. It is critical to adhere to the graphic standards specified in this document. It is also important to consider the context of the item. What the branding is applied to will affect the brand’s message.

If you have a question about a specific item, please contact HFMA (see page 40).
Social Media

Social media channels provide a limited space for individual branding. HFMA Chapters should use the HFMA Corporate logo. This will provide strength and unity across the social spectrum.

Mobile Apps

Mobile apps can also provide an opportunity for branding. The scalable nature of mobile apps limits the amount of direction this document can provide. When developing a mobile app, it is critical to adhere to the guidelines specified in this document.

Social Badges

Social media presence is important to reinforce to our audience. However, the media in which it is communicated should dictate its usage. The badge should direct the audience to the social landing page. If the media does not provide this function, it should not be used. **If the art is clickable, use it. If not, then don’t.**

If you have a question about a specific application, please contact HFMA (see page 40).
There is strength in simplicity. Iconography is a powerful method to quickly communicate ideas. Icons may be used to visually separate messages, while providing the audience quick comprehension.

Font Awesome
Open source solutions can provide a consistent, globally recognized set of icons. Their strength is the uniformity of usage for common ideas, or functions.

Font Awesome is approved for usage, under their licensing agreement. HFMA cannot provide individual licenses for this font.

A complete library can be accessed here: https://fontawesome.com/icons?d=gallery

Custom Icons
At times, subject matter may require a unique solution. In these cases, custom iconography is allowed.

Please use the following guidelines:

- The subject or idea represented is relevant and reflects positively on the brand;
- Singular, simplified ideas communicate quickly.
A picture is worth a thousand words. HFMA content can be complex and nuanced, at times. Figures and diagrams are a useful tool to convey this content to our audience. It is important that the visual style remain true to our brand guidelines.

Please use the following criteria:

- The visual style should be simple, but also expert, and refined;
- The elements should utilize the approved color palette (see page 19);
- The elements should utilize the approved fonts: (see page 30);
- The elements should utilize the approved iconography: (see page 37).
A picture is worth a thousand words.
Campaign messaging is a powerful way to lift unique marketing efforts that span multiple HFMA channels, and utilize diverse media. The longevity of the campaign provides a common theme that is longer than immediate marketing messages, but more temporary than HFMA communication pillars, or mission statement.

Please use the following criteria:

- Elements that stray from HFMA brand guidelines, such as typography, color palette, image selection must be loyal to our core brand messaging;
- The HFMA logo usage guidelines must be applied (See pages 18-22.).
QUESTIONS?

What about this?
If you have any questions regarding the use of the HFMA identity or need additional information or artwork, please contact HFMA.

HFMA Marketing
marketingdepartment@hfma.org
ABOUT HFMA

The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) equips its more than 96,000 members nationwide to navigate a complex healthcare landscape. Finance professionals in the full range of work settings, including hospitals, health systems, physician practices and health plans, trust HFMA to provide the guidance and tools to help them lead their organizations, and the industry, forward. HFMA is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that advances healthcare by collaborating with other key stakeholders to address industry challenges and providing guidance, education, practical tools and solutions, and thought leadership. We lead the financial management of healthcare.