



hfma[™]

healthcare financial management association

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gulf coast lines



April 20 Program

Motivatin' & Delegatin' Charles C. Cummings, Jr., CPA, CFE Cummings & Houston, L.L.P.

At the April 20, 2007 luncheon, Charles Cummings will present a program on "Motivatin' & Delegatin'." Learn practical, low-cost and effective principles and techniques to truly motivate others and to delegate to the people you manage in order to reach your own desired goals at work and in life while at the same time creating an encouraging, motivational and energetic work environment for you and your people.



Chuck Cummings is a practicing Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner with Cummings & Houston, L.L.P., located in Houston, Texas. For over thirty-five years Chuck has practiced in the tax area. *Money* magazine listed him as one of the four best tax consultants in Houston. He has also practiced extensively in the tax controversy area, even in the realm of criminal tax investigations where he has assisted attorneys in defending people being investigated for potential tax crimes. As a CPA and/or CFE, Chuck investigates and/or testifies regarding fraud, damages and taxes. Chuck is also a little strange! Some call him an "oxymoron," an "inspirational CPA." He loves talking about how to make your life better as a professional.

Don't miss this informative and engaging speaker at the April 20 luncheon. 

Meeting Location

Methodist Hospital
6565 Fannin
Houston, TX
Dunn Rio Grande
Conference Room
Must use Bertner
Entrance for
Complimentary
Valet Parking

See Our Website at
www.hfmatxgc.org
for a parking map
and directions.

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Thursday, May 17 & Friday, May 18 HFMA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter 2007 Annual Meeting & Conference If Disney Ran Your Hospital...

The Edwin Hornberger Conference Center

Thursday, May 17

If Disney Ran Your Hospital... - Fred Lee
Reception & Casino Party

Friday, May 18

Consumer Directed Health Care
David Toomey & Travis H. Brashear, J.D., CIGNA HealthCare
*HFMA Principles & Practices: Board Statement 15... Valuation and Reporting of
Charity Care and Bad Debts*
Richard L. Gundling, FHFMA, CMA, Healthcare Financial Management Association

Up to 10 hours CPE Credit Available

<http://www.hfmatxgc.org/hfmaForum1.php>

**HFMA Texas Gulf
Coast Chapter**
P.O. Box 631206
Houston, Texas
77263-1206
Tel: 713.776.1314
Fax: 713.776.1308
info@hfmatxgc.org

Message from the President


By Scott McBride, Partner with the law firm Baker & Hostetler LLP



Scott McBride is a partner with the law firm Baker & Hostetler LLP. He also serves as the 2006-2007 President for the HFMA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.

As another fiscal year for our Chapter comes to an end in the next couple of months and as my term as President ends, I want to personally thank all the Chapter members who volunteer their time and energy to make our Chapter function and grow. It is a pleasure to work with so many Chapter members who are committed to a good cause and who are generous with their time, energy, and talent. I hope every Chapter member will continue to see the value of participating and volunteering in the Chapter and in our local communities. Through our individual efforts, we can have positive influences on the people and organizations around us and our lives will be enriched in doing so.

I sincerely wish everyone the best success and I hope our paths cross soon and often.

Warm Regards,
Scott McBride
Chapter President 2006 - 2007
713.646.1390 



Membership Messages

by Donna Hinman and Phyllis Speer, CHFP
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Your HFMA TX Gulf Coast Chapter membership committee welcomes all new and reinstated members —160 — through January 31, 2007. We encourage you to tell your friends and coworkers about the organization because...


Time is running out on the Member-Get-A-Member Program rewards for 2006-2007. Recruit 1 or 2 members who begin their membership before April 30, 2007 OR former members who reactivate before April 30, 2007 and you win an HFMA apparel item of your choice (approx. value \$25). **Note:** *your name must be provided on the prospective member's application or reinstatement form to receive credit.*

Cash drawings for gift certificates are available based on the number of new/reinstated members. Check out www.hfma.org for more details.

Remember, being a member of HFMA is not just about professional rewards. Affinity Programs discounts are also available from companies such as Avis and Geico Direct. Take advantage of the special rates by visiting www.hfma.org; then click on the Membership link and Affinity Programs.

A new member orientation will be held on Friday, April 20, 2007 at 10:30 am prior to the monthly luncheon meeting. If you are a new member or are interested in membership join us to learn more about what HFMA offers YOU!

Donna Hinman is a Senior Account Manager for Trans Union and also serves as Co-Chair for the Membership Committee for the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.

Phyllis Speer, CHFP, is a Senior Financial Reporting Analyst for UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and also serves as Co-Chair for the Membership Committee for the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. 

Save the Date Calendar of Events

April 20
(2 CPEs)
Committee Mtgs 10:30a
New Member
Orientation &
Physician Practice

Monthly Luncheon
11:30a - 1p
Charles C. Cummings,
Jr., CPA, CFE
Motivatin' & Delegatin'

April 29 - May 1
Combined Meeting
TAHFA/HFMA
(up to 20 CPEs)
Spring Training: Back to
the Basics
Marriott Rivercenter
Hotel-San Antonio

May 17-18
Annual Meeting
(Up to 10 CPEs)
If Disney Ran Your
Hospital by Fred Lee,
Managed Care Panel,
Charity Care Panel &
More
Hornberger Conference
Center-Texas Medical
Center

June 15
Committee Mtg 10:30a
Physician Practice

Monthly Luncheon
11:30a-1:30p
Danny Hollaway, Esq.
Texas Legislature is Now
in Session: What You
Want & What You're
Likely to Get

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Designed for the Future: The Critical Access/Small Hospital Prototype Project

By Lee Buckner, BBH Design

Experience shows that building a replacement hospital can be more efficient, and sometimes less expensive, than refurbishing or updating an existing facility. Yet replacing a hospital in today's constantly-changing health care environment presents the complex design challenge of adapting to future technologies and health care delivery methods. Construction efficiency and adaptability are especially important to remote communities with limited resources, where most rural hospitals are approaching 50 years old and contending with inadequate or inefficient space.

To provide guiding principals for facility replacement, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which operates the Critical Access Hospital program, commissioned a study to develop two prototypes for 25- and 15-bed facilities. BBH Design, a North Carolina architectural firm, worked with HHS and the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to establish guiding principles to aid small and rural hospitals in replacement facility planning, design and construction. This prototype complements federal efforts to improve rural hospitals' operational performance, including establishment of the CAH program and increased efforts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Facilities Program and the Federal Housing Administration's Section 242 Mortgage Insurance Program to reach out to these providers.

"Experience shows that building a replacement hospital can be more efficient, and sometimes less expensive, than refurbishing or updating an existing facility. Yet replacing a hospital in today's constantly-changing health care environment presents the complex design challenge of adapting to future technologies and health care delivery methods."

The resulting healthcare facility design (prototype) is a decision-making tool for rural hospital leaders to estimate space requirements and costs associated with a replacement facility. A project of this magnitude should be considered a major economic advantage for the local economy, and encourages the hospital to consider a process that combines national perspective, insight, knowledge and expertise with qualified local and

regional resources to provide a practice-ready facility to serve a community for the next 50 years. And while it was commissioned specifically for CAHs, the design concept can be adapted to a hospital of almost any size.

The approach uses modular design, including modular mechanical and electrical systems housed in a central spine, a universal space approach with high floor-to-floor heights to allow for conversion of internal space to other potential uses, universal room models and provisions for future expansion and convertibility.

The central spine serves as a mechanical circulation and distribution channel, providing such needs as electrical service and carrying all infrastructure components horizontally and vertically throughout the building. This structure allows for flexibility for incremental growth of patient beds and clinical, administrative and support services, either by adding stories or expanding horizontally, with minimal disruption to operations.

The use of modular techniques and systems will allow for shorter construction times, whether for packages of complete clinical suites or semi-moveable components. This will also reduce construction cost, allowing more funding to go toward equipment purchases.

The prototype is based on an all-private universal patient room concept designed to enable conversion of acute patient rooms to intensive, critical care, isolation or labor-delivery (LDRP) use. Nursing units are designed to accommodate 25 beds but, as with all prototype elements, the system allows for adaptation for fewer beds or for expansion.

See "Prototype Project" page 6

Calendar of Events

continued from page 2

June 15 TENTATIVE DATE Certification Exam

9am
Offices of Deloitte &
Touche LLP
333 Clay, Ste. 2300
Houston
For information contact
Victoria Nikitin
victoria_nikitin@hchd.tmc.edu
or 713.566.4342

June 24-27 HFMA's 2007 Annual National Institute (ANI)

San Diego
General Colin Powell,
USA (Ret.), *Leadership:
Taking Charge*
James H. Gilmore: *The
Experience Economy:
Maximizing the Value of
Health Care*
Quint Studer: *Evidence-
Based Leadership: Using
Evidence to Drive
Results*

Luncheon meetings are generally held on the 3rd Friday of each month at 11:30 am. However, we've made some changes in this year's schedule, so please confirm dates/times in advance.

Our new meeting location:

Methodist Hospital
6565 Fannin
Dunn Rio Grande
Conference Room

Topics and Speakers subject to change.
Credit Cards accepted.

HFMA Job Bank

HFMA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Job Bank

Contact Dianne Love, PhD at love@cl.uh.edu to post job opportunities and/or to be added to the HFMA e-mail distribution group for future job opportunities.



HFMA National Job Bank

http://www.hfma.org/careers/job_bank_new.cfm

New Joint Commission Report Patient Safety & Health Care Quality

(OAKBROOK TERRACE, Ill. – March 20, 2007) Hospitals across the United States have significantly improved the quality of care provided for patients suffering from heart attacks, heart failure, or pneumonia over the past four years, according to a new report from The Joint Commission. The report details the performance of accredited hospitals against standardized national performance measures and the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals.

Improving America's Hospitals: A Report on Quality and Safety also shows, however, that the effectiveness with which hospitals carry out safe practices and provide patients proven treatments for common clinical conditions varies by state. These variations spotlight clear opportunities for hospitals to strengthen their efforts in delivering safe, effective care.

For example, the Joint Commission report found that almost all heart attack patients are receiving the life-saving benefits of aspirin when they arrive at the hospital, yet many heart failure patients do not receive specific discharge instructions about their condition and necessary follow-up care when they leave the hospital.

Hospital performance in complying with National Patient Safety Goal requirements has also been variable. Most hospitals do well in using objective methods to identify patients before undertaking treatments, but many are finding it challenging to put processes in place to avoid medication mix-ups.

The Joint Commission is issuing this detailed report as part of its ongoing efforts to stimulate continuous quality and safety improvement and to empower consumers with information that will make them more active participants in their health care. This report, which is the first of what is to become an annual report, covers the time period from 2002 through 2005.

To read the complete report, go to (<http://www.jointcommissionreport.org/>) 

New Chapter Members

Meredith Beaumont
Encore Bank

Candace Chatham
Stockamp & Associates, Inc.

Chris Cribbs
GBI Services LLC

Richard Dyo
UHY Advisors TX LP

Louise Garcia
GBI Services

Maria Glenn, CPAT
Texas Children's Hospital

Mark Hamel
Perot Systems Revenue Cycle Solutions

Robin Hawkins

Wanda Hilliard, BSN, RN
Shriners Hospitals for Children

Michael Keneker
U.T. - M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Kim Lelli
HCA

Lucas Lerma
Methodist Hospital

Wesley Link
Vaughan Holland Consulting, Inc.

William Little, Jr.
Texas Children's Hospital

Connie Longuet
U.T. - M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

David Maloy
Encore Bank

Florence McKelvey
U.T. - M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Sara Michener
St. Joseph Health System

Nekpen Osuan
Baylor University

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Community Services Corner

by Lisa Dixon, Cardon Healthcare Network, Inc. and Community Service Committee Chair



Lisa Dixon is a Client Services Manager for Cardon Healthcare Network. She also serves as the 2005-2006 Chairperson for our Chapter's Community Service Committee

Aim High Academy School Supply Drive February – March 2007

I want to thank all of our membership who participated in the Aim High Academy School Supply Drive. We received \$194.00 in monetary donations and received 5 bags of supplies at our luncheons. Because of your overwhelming generosity, we made the following donation to Aim High Academy:

- 5 games
- 20 flashcards
- 5 puzzles
- 6 balls
- 2 Paintbrush sets
- 4 Paint sets
- 3 Art pads
- 3 Construction paper pads
- 4 CDs
- 9 DVDs
- 4 Videos
- 2 Wooden block sets
- 2 Glue Bottles
- 2 Crayon sets
- 4 Marker sets
- 1 Learning clock



This was a wonderful way to end our year of Community Service Projects. It was another successful project. Thank you, membership, for the overwhelming support you have given to our projects this year. You truly are a very generous and great-hearted group of people.

Teddy Bear Drive Makes National News

We reported in the last edition of our newsletter that our Chapter contributed 311 teddy bears to the Houston Police Department in December 2006, following the Community Service Committee's two-month teddy bear drive.

HFMA National picked up the story and ran it in the April 2007 edition of Notes from National. Now HFMA members across the United States are reading about our Chapter's hugely successful Teddy Bear drive.

Thanks again to Lisa Dixon, Chairperson for the Community Services Committee and the committee members that have coordinated service projects that have put our Chapter on the map! Thanks especially for helping our Chapter make a difference in the Houston and Texas Gulf Coast communities!



Go to their website to learn more <http://www.ahacademy.net/>

For more information or to schedule a tour of the facility...

Aim High Academy
7040 Mapleridge Street
Houston, Texas 77081
info@ahacademy.net
713.661.7040 phone
713.852.0944 fax

Driving Directions

Exit Bissonnet from 610 West. Turn west (outside the loop) onto Bissonnet.

After the Bellaire/Bissonnet intersection turn left onto Mapleridge. Aim High Academy is the first two-story building on the right. Click here for a map to Aim High.

New Chapter Members

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Joanne Ouellet
The Methodist Hospital

Patrick Schulte
Forward Properties

Wesley Tidwell
Memorial Hermann
Healthcare System

Karin Zieleck
Brazosport Health
Alliance



10 Reasons You Should Attend ANI 2007

- Healthcare finance leaders from the nation's premiere hospitals and systems share innovation and strategies for success.
- Keynote Addresses offer insight and dynamic solutions to challenges facing all organizations.
- 81 Breakout Sessions, led by industry experts and providers, offer take-away tools and practical information to help you inspire and advance change throughout your organization.
- Free-flowing and structured networking provides opportunities to exchange ideas on common issues and situations among peers.
- A CD containing all of the tips, tools and handouts from all 81 Breakout Sessions is given attendees to take home and put to good use.
- Preconference programs are designed to enhance your healthcare finance knowledge, while allowing extra time for networking.
- Leading industry stakeholders gather in the Idea Exchange Exhibit to demonstrate tools that foster informed decisions for improving performance, accelerating efficiency and controlling costs.
- The Golf Outing before the conference encourages you to begin networking with your peers while enjoying the San Diego sunshine.
- A spectacular location includes plenty of activities for guests and their families.
- Earn 17 CPEs.

For complete details and to register for ANI, [click here](#) or call (800) 252-4362, extension 2.

Prototype Project

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The prototype was designed under certain budget and services assumptions and incorporates features that may not be necessary in every facility. As with any approach designed for more than one user, it will have drawbacks; hospital leadership may have to make compromises. Building for future needs may initially be more expensive than designing a "tight fit" for current needs, and designing for the long term may mean that features and departments may not all be ideally located in the short term. On a whole, however, the prototype should help smaller hospitals affordably and quickly meet current facility needs while enabling convertibility and adaptability to accommodate change for the next fifty years.

Lee Buckner is a partner at BBH Design in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

This article first appeared in Lancaster Pollard's "The Capital Issue" fall 2006 newsletter. Portions were first written by Mr. Buckner for the April/May issue of Healthcare Building Ideas. Lancaster Pollard provides investment and mortgage banking and investment advisory services to community and rural hospitals. "The Capital Issue" and information on the financial programs it mentions can be found at www.lancasterpollard.com.



Web-based Calculators

Have you ever had to calculate Body Surface Area (BSA) to develop an insurance claim appeal to justify the medical necessity of breast reduction mammoplasty based on the Schnur Sliding Scale?

I ran across this excellent website that is full of every imaginable kind of calculator including a BSA calculator, metrics conversions, graphing vectors, luminance conversions, time & temp conversions, velocity & volume conversions and even a simple percent calculator.

There's even one for counting sheep, but I haven't determined how to load the sheep into the website.

Thought you might find this website helpful.
<http://www.wolinskyweb.net/measure.htm>

--Editor

Moving?

If you are relocating, changing jobs, changing e-mail addresses or phone numbers, don't forget to update your information on the National HFMA website at www.hfma.org

Also, please notify us of your changes at (713) 776.1314 or via e-mail at info@htmatxgc.org

Attention Members-CHFP & FHFMA Candidates!! Certification News:

Important 2007 Exam Information

There are three *tentative* exam dates for 2007. Exams begin at 9 a.m. at the downtown offices of Deloitte & Touche.

- June 15
- September 14
- December 14

For an exam application please visit https://www.hfma.org/site/certification/exam_application.cfm.

NOTE: only active HFMA members are eligible to take the exam.

Congratulations to the following individuals who have recently been certified with the designations FHFMA and CHFP:

Mark Kline, FHFMA
HFMA Fellowship

Phyllis Speer, FHFMA
HFMA Fellowship

Michael R. Lindsey, CHFP
Area of Specialty, Accounting & Finance

Lisa G. Schillaci, CHFP, CPA
Area of Specialty, Patient Financial Services

This brings the total of certified members during the 2006-2007 term to 37!

South Texas Chapter Hosts Exam in San Antonio

The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter is also proud to announce an exam opportunity hosted by our partner chapter, the South Texas Chapter of HFMA.

Exam date: Saturday, March 31, 2007

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Baptist Health System, School of Health Professions
8400 Data Point
San Antonio, TX 78229

Proctor: Brenda Cox
bcox@onr.com
512.496.9989

Information about HFMA certification may also be found at <http://www.hfma.org/certification/>. Our members had a record-breaking year in 2006 with the number of successful exams and we would like you to be one of those successes!! Let us know if we can help you.

Please contact Victoria Nikitin at 713.566.4342 or Victoria.Nikitin@hchd.tmc.edu if you have general questions about certification. 

Don't Forget E-Learning

Need CPE credits?
No time to travel?

Try E-Learning

Over 1,000 manageable lessons and you're in control

Accounting & Finance, Admissions, Billing, Joint Commission, Managed Care, Medical Terminology, Patient Financial Services, Physician Practice.

To find out more, go to www.hfma.org and select "Education & Events" from the left-hand toolbar. Then select "E-Learning Courses".

CMS NEWS Value-Driven Health Care - California Collaborative

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on March 14, 2007 a California collaborative as its newest participant in an effort to produce more accurate, comprehensive measures of the quality of services at the provider level.

Through the Better Quality Information to Improve Care for Medicare Beneficiaries (BQI) project, the California Cooperative Health Care Reporting Initiative (CCHRI) will combine their claims data or clinical information with that of Medicare to provide consistent measures of

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More Certification News: Maintaining Your Certification

Achieving an HFMA certification demonstrates a level of professional competence that is measured by meeting certain experiential and professional requirements. **HFMA certified members are granted current status for a period of three years from the June 1 closest to the date of attaining Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) status.** Certified members with the CHFP status are then required to show evidence of maintaining the designation every three years.

Reporting Period

CHFPs and FHFMA members must show evidence of maintaining their designation every three (3) years and by the "Good thru" date in their member record. The reporting period ends on the "Good thru" date and begins June 1 three (3) years prior to the "Good thru" date.

Requirements for Certification Maintenance

The HFMA Board of Directors requires that all CHFPs and FHFMA members complete continuing education activities to demonstrate they are maintaining their technical and professional competence. These activities must be **self reported** in the HFMA on-line education tool, described below.

Active Membership

To retain your designation, you must remain an active HFMA member. Failure to remain an active member will result in removal of the designation by September 1 in the year in which the membership was not renewed. The designation will then need to be re-earned by successfully completing the two requisite exams and meeting all other requirements to become a CHFP, with this being confirmed through submittal of a CHFP application and appropriate fee.



Continuing Education Requirement

The Board of Examiners (BoE) has specified the following maintenance requirements:

- 90 contact hours total in eligible programs over the three-year reporting period
- Minimum of 20 contact hours per maintenance reporting year (6/1 through 5/31 for the three years prior to the "Good thru" date)
- Minimum of 50% of the total contact hours (45 hours) must be in healthcare finance.
- Remaining contact hours may be from attending eligible programs and professional activities that contribute to the development of business and/or technical skills.

Activities Eligible to Certification Maintenance Requirement

Activities that contribute toward professional development are eligible toward the HFMA certification maintenance requirement. The following document lists eligible topics that may be covered during an education event, as well as the types of eligible activities. Some activities have a maximum amount of contact hours that can be reported for the three year reporting cycle.

Link to list of education activities eligible for certification maintenance. http://www.hfma.org/NR/rdonlyres/8CE283AA-881B-423B-AD74-0843A682C08A/0/Eligible_ed_activities_cert_maintn_rev_1006.pdf

Value-Driven Health Care

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the quality of provider services.

"The measurement results from these collaboratives will ultimately provide information to Medicare beneficiaries about the quality of care physicians treating Medicare beneficiaries provide," said CMS Acting Administrator Leslie V. Norwalk. "It will also provide valuable performance information to physicians who treat Medicare beneficiaries, making it a win-win effort for both providers and people with Medicare."

Currently, the BQI project is being implemented in four regional collaboratives around the country. The Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care, one of CMS's quality improvement organizations, has entered into subcontracts with each regional collaborative.

The CCHRI joins other collaboratives announced by CMS last month, which include: Indiana Health Information Exchange, Massachusetts Health Quality Partners, Minnesota Community Measurement, and Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality.

Additional information on each regional collaborative as well as the Secretary's Value-driven Health Care Initiative is available at www.hhs.gov/transparency.

See "Maintaining Your Certification" next page

Maintaining Your Certification

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Reporting Eligible Education Activities

Certified Members must use the on-line reporting tool to record activities for the certification maintenance requirement. Hard copy documentation is no longer accepted.

Activities that need to be reported

- HFMA chapter education program attendance
- participation in non-HFMA professional organization conferences/workshops
- presenting at meetings
- authoring or reviewing publications
- proctoring HFMA certification exams

Activities sponsored by HFMA National and for which you received a CPE letter from HFMA National **DO NOT** need to be reported.

Directions for Reporting Education Activities and Viewing Report

To view directions for self-reporting education activities, go to the National website at <http://www.hfma.org/certification/certmaintenance/>

In lieu of participating in the Certification Maintenance program, certified members can retain currency by successfully re-taking the current Core examination and the specialty in which they are certified, and submitting a conforming CHFP application.

Failure to complete the above requirements will result in removal of the certification designation by September 1 of the year the maintenance was required, i.e. your "Good thru" date.

Once a designation has been removed, the member must complete the entire certification process again, including re-taking the certification examinations and submitting a conforming CHFP and/or FHFMA application with all appropriate fees, to HFMA National.

Exceptions

Exceptions from maintenance requirements can be granted based on retirement, foreign residency, health, military service, and other similar reasons. To find out how to apply for a waiver, go to <http://www.hfma.org/certification/certmaintenance/>

[Reprinted from HFMA National website] 

Thanks! Newsletter Committee

Deena Billingsley, Companion Technologies – Job Bank Handouts for meetings

Carolyn Gay, Administrator, Hollaway & Gumbert – committee chair, managing editor

Jeff Helton, Doctors Hospital Tidwell+Parkway, CFO – assistant editor

Lance Loria, President, Loria & Associates – submission original articles

Mitali Paul, MD Anderson, Off-shift Administrator – program recaps

Regina Richardson - student volunteer, assistant editor, photographer 

Website Resources

Hospital Directory

Below is a link to a web-based Hospital Directory provided by US News & World Report. It provides general hospital details including bed size, CEO name, website link, address, telephone number & clinical service lines. While it is not as comprehensive as the Hospital Blue Book, it serves as a good quick reference.
http://www.usnews.com/usnews/health/hospitals/state_dir.php

California Hospital CDM's

As you may be aware, California hospitals are already required to submit copies of their CDM's for public access. This is something that we have to look forward to in Texas very soon, with pricing transparency being one of the "hot button" issues in our industry. For a preview of what is on the Texas horizon, go to....<http://www.oshpd.state.ca.us/HQAD/Hospital/Chargemaster/2005/chrgrmstrA.htm>

CMS National Correct Coding Initiatives

CMS developed the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) to promote national correct coding methodologies and control improper coding leading to inappropriate payments for Part B claims. This web page is aimed at providing information to providers on Medicare's National CCI edits. A web link to the manuals is provided below.

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nationalcorrectcodinitied/01_overview.asp


Members on the Move

By Carolyn A. Gay, Administrator for the law firm of Hollaway & Gumbert



Carolyn Gay is the administrator for the law firm of Hollaway & Gumbert. She also serves as the Newsletter Editor and a Director on the Board for the HFMA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.

Kent Walters, former Manager, Finance for The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, has been promoted to department administrator for Stem Cell Transplantation and Cell Therapy. He also chairs our Chapter's Physician Practice Committee and in October 2006 Kent earned his credentials as a Certified Medical Practice Executive through the American College of Medical Practice Executives. It sounds like Kent has been very busy in the past several months and about to get a lot busier, but we know that our Survey Monkey is always up to the task. Congrat's, Kent!

Jennifer Vaughn, a new HFMA member just delivered a baby girl on March 3rd! Baby Emily was 7 lb 8 oz and 18in. Both mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations to the Vaughan family! 

Breaking News – CMS Alert

1500 Format Errors

April 1, 2007 Deadline Extended

CMS recently discovered that there are incorrectly formatted versions of the revised Form CMS-1500 being sold by print vendors, specifically the Government Printing Office (GPO).

After reviewing the situation, the GPO has determined that the source files they received from the National Uniform Claim Committee's (NUCC) authorized forms designer were improperly formatted. This resulted in the sale of both printed forms and negatives which do not comply with the form specifications.

Given the circumstances, **CMS has decided to extend the acceptance period of the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) version beyond the original April 1, 2007 deadline while this situation is resolved.** Contractors will be directed to continue to accept the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) until notified by CMS to cease. At present, **CMS is targeting June 1, 2007 as that date.**

In addition, during the interim contractors will be directed to return, not manually key, any Form CMS-1500 (08-05) forms received which are not printed to specification. By returning the incorrectly formatted claim forms back to providers, CMS is able to make providers aware of the situation which will allow providers to begin communications with their form suppliers.

The following will help providers to properly identify which form is which. The old version of the form contains "Approved OMB-0938-0008 FORM CMS-1500 (12-90)" on the bottom of the form (typically on the lower right corner) signifying the version is the December 1990 version.

The revised version contains "Approved OMB-0938-0999 FORM CMS-1500 (08-05)" on the bottom of the form signifying the version is the August 2005 version.

The best way to identify if your CMS-1500 (08-05) version forms are correct is by looking at the upper right hand corner of the form. On properly formatted claim forms, there will be approximately a ¼" gap between the tip of the red arrow above the vertically stacked word "CARRIER" and the top edge of the paper. If the tip of the red arrow is touching or close to touching the top edge of the paper, then the form is not printed to specifications.

It is important to note that this issue involves the implementation of the new Form CMS-1500 (08-05) only and does not impact the May 23, 2007 implementation date of the NPI.

Questions may be directed to Brian Reitz at Brian.Reitz@cms.hhs.gov.

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/16_1500.asp 

TDI Link to Payer NPI's

Texas Department of Insurance (a/k/a TDI) provides links to payer websites which supply details for NPI guidelines specific to each health plan. Payer NPI links on TDI's website include:

Aetna

http://www.aetna.com/provider/NPI_talking_points.html

Blue Cross Blue Shield

http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/national_identifier.htm

Cigna

http://www.cigna.com/health/provider/medical/national_provider_identifier.html

Community Health Choice

<http://www.communityhealthchoic.org/en/Providers/NPI.htm>

Unicare

<http://www.unicare.com/home-providers.html>

For a complete list of health plan links, go to TDI's website at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/consumer/doctorsnpi.html>

DWC Form 75 Reimbursement for Emergency Care

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) recently posted two documents on the agency website to assist health care providers and insurance carriers in understanding appropriate use of the DWC Form 75, Non-ADL Doctor Request for Case-By-Case Exception, and reimbursement for emergency and immediate post-injury medical care.

The two documents are "Helpful Hints to Providers Regarding DWC Form 75" and "Helpful Hints to Carriers Regarding DWC Form 75".

To view the Helpful Hints for Insurance Carriers "Review of Requests for Reimbursement for Emergency or Immediate Post-Injury Medical Care," click on the following link: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/carrier/documents/hhcarrier75.pdf> .

To view the Helpful Hints for Doctors "How to Respond to Denials of Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Care," click on the following link: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/hcprovider/documents/hhprovider75.pdf> .

SUBSCRIBE: To subscribe to DWC service, send an email to medicalbenefits@tdi.state.tx.us and provide your email address. Type the word "SUBSCRIBE" in the email subject line.

UNSUBSCRIBE: To be removed from DWC's email list, send an email to the following address: medicalbenefits@tdi.state.tx.us and type the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line of the email.

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS: To change your email address, send an email to medicalbenefits@tdi.state.tx.us and provide your new email address along with your previous email address so your previous address can be removed from DWC's email list.

[Distributed by TDI-Division of Workers' Compensation, Outreach and Education Staff]



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Feb/Mar	January 12
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June/July	May 11

Submit articles (MS Word) or advertising (.jpg or .tif files) to the newsletter editor, **Carolyn Gay** at cgay@houstonlaw.com.

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Members are encouraged to submit articles and report news of interest to the membership. Contact the editor to obtain deadlines for submitting articles. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission for clarity and length, and to accept or reject any submission. Please send all submissions to:

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