



The Greater Chicagoland Chapter of PAHCOM

RSVP WWW.GCPAHCOM.COM
MAY 31, 2010

Next Meeting Date:
June 1, 2010

Location:
Lutheran General Hospital
1775 Dempster Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Program:
Insurance 101
Mary Jo Lenkart
Mesirow Financial

Sponsors:

Jeff Cumbee
PLATINUM
Ph: 630-375-6800

David Heller
H Group Benefits, Inc.
Ph: 847-564-1640

Mike Hattie
Sage Solion
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Ph: 312-704-3574

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Medix Systems Consultants
Ph: 708-331-1271

Michael Thoney
Professional Facility Care
Ph: 888-241-4665

Letter From Our President

Greetings Greater
Chicagoland!

I hope this letter finds all of your enjoying the (finally!) nice weather. Leave it to Chicago to blast you with cold, rainy weather one day, and then reward you with a beautiful hot sunny day the next. If you have a schedule similar to mine, you have to sit in your office, staring out the window, wishing you could enjoy that sunny day. Not to fear friends, those nice days will start to show themselves on our days off soon.

For those of you that attended our last meeting, you know that our membership drive was a great success! Officially, we had 28 guest managers in attendance. That's AMAZING! Great work everyone! To all of our guests in attendance, I hope you enjoyed what you saw. This is a truly amazing group of people, and the amount of knowledge to be absorbed is astronomical. I hope we will see each of you again at one of our exciting upcoming meetings. Congratulations to our Netbook winners, Mike Hattie and Renee Segal, for bringing the most guests. Thank you for all of your hard work. I would also like to congratulate the

winner of our guest manager raffle, Hedda Ciopanu from Hashemi Medical Group. I am sure you will enjoy your netbook as well. I will see each of you again at one of our exciting upcoming meetings. Congratulations to our Netbook winners, Mike Hattie and Renee Segal, for bringing the most guests. Thank you for all of your hard work. I would also like to congratulate the winner of our guest manager raffle, Hedda Ciopanu from Hashemi Medical Group. I am sure you will enjoy your netbook as well.

Now that we have shown ourselves to so many guest managers, we have another important job to do: Bring them back for another meeting! Let's show these managers what an amazing impact PAHCOM will have on their careers. If you invited a guest, please be sure to contact them again, and invite them to our next meeting. Remember, new guests are always welcome, so keep spreading the word!

I would like to thank Ken Ryan, from the Illinois State Medical Society, for taking the time to



speaking with our group. Medicare updates, RACs, and Healthcare Reform are such hot topics right now, and it's nice to have one source for so much information. I hope everyone was able to take some interesting and useful information back to your offices.

Please join us for our next meeting on June 1st. Mary Jo Lenkart, from Mesirow Financial, will be our speaker, presenting "Insurance 101". She will be giving us all the information we need to know about insurances we need to keep our offices safe and compliant. Remember there is no meeting in July, so you will want to attend our June 1st meeting to get your PAHCOM fix!

Thank you everyone for making the Greater Chicagoland Chapter of PAHCOM a rewarding organization to lead and be a part of.

Respectfully submitted,
Lizz Dietrich

In the Chapter

We are now broadcasting our monthly chapter meetings online
RSVP by Friday May 28, to Jeff @ 630-375-6800

WWW.GCPAHCOM.COM for details

New PAHCOM National Information
3755 Avocado Blvd. Suite 306, La Mesa, CA 91941
Phone: 407-835-3776 / Fax: 407-386-7006

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Connect with us online we have groups setup on both sites. If you have questions let us know. Keep connected and sharing your experiences online. We are always looking for ways to expand our internet reach. Hope to see you online!



Meeting Minutes May 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Lizz Dietrich at 7:20pm.

Board Present: Lizz Dietrich, President, Jennifer Pfeifer, Membership, Renee Segal, CMM, President-Elect, Janice Goodyear, CMM, Treasurer, Jo Dick, CMM, CENTCS, Sponsor Coordinator, Karen Spellman, CMM, Sponsor Coordinator, and Roxie Esposito, CMM, Secretary.

Members: Jody Berman, Kelly Dietrich, CMM, Robert Dunk, Patti Lam, Jennifer Brown, Cynthia Penkala, CMM, Paula Mateo, CMM, Patti Hembd, Bozena Marquart, CMM, Charmaine Zingler, Lana Moshkovich, CMM, Caryle Johnson, Lisa L'Abbate, and Susan Leibforth. **Guests Managers:** Yuliya Semisalova, Alice Quick, Carol Hutchison, Sarah Linker, Traci Strobel, Eric Brodsky, Olga Chernov, Hedda Ciopasiu-Eckhardt, Diane Edwards, Jenine Farah, Anita Figueroa, Laurie Johnson, Andrew Kozakow, Dawn Leavy, Maria Lysandrou, Carmen Martinez, Ciro Olivarez, Ela Padurar, Greg Pickering, Anna Pomerantseva, Jessica Riley, Karen Mordow, Terri Esposito, Rose Hauer, Connie Bartholomew, Mary Kondracsek, Rashida Rihman, Marie O'Brien, and Nancy Frait.

Sponsors: David Heller, Jeff Cumbee, Kathy Kantner, Joe Balice, Mike Hattie, Earl Dorsey, Bert Rosenberg, Joseph Sameh, Carrie Shevitz, Karla Weisberg, Mike Thoney, Tim Pratt, Jayme Matchinski, Sarah Bleeden, and Ken Ryan.

Guest Sponsors: Dan Shaw, Nancy Raines from P.O.S., David Goldberg from Advocate Advisors, and Randy Johnson from Preferred Health Tech.

Minutes: Jody Berman made a motion to approve the minutes from April, and Kelly Dietrich, CMM, seconded the motion.

Membership: Lizz Dietrich, President, welcomed all our guests and gave a short introduction about PAHCOM. Lizz reminded everyone, members, guests, and sponsors to please sign in before each meeting. Jennifer Pfeifer, Membership, also welcomed guests and encouraged them to speak to any board member with any questions about PAHCOM. Jennifer explained that a guest can attend 3 meetings without joining, so please check us out. Since the beginning of the year, we have 7 new members.

Sponsor Spotlight: Mike Hattie from Professional Office Services, formerly Solion. Thank you for the great dinner!

Programming: Karen Spellman, CMM, reminded guests to please sign in to be eligible for the raffle. Sponsors and members, please return your name tags to the membership table. June meeting: Insurance 101. July: No meeting.

Sponsor Information: Jo Dick, CMM, CENTCS, Sponsor Coordinator and Karen Spellman, CMM, Sponsor Coordinator: Welcome all sponsors, we currently have 18 sponsors. Guest sponsors, please consider becoming a sponsor. If you want more information, please visit our website: www.gccpahcom.com.


Old Business: Lizz Dietrich announced that we are having the CMM exam on June 26, 2010 at Lutheran General Hospital in the Special Functions Dining Room. Renee Segal, CMM will proctor the exam. If you are interested in taking the exam, please see Bozena Marquart, CMM or Renee Segal, CMM. Please check out National PAHCOM website, www.pahcom.com for information on conference, held in Orlando, Florida, September 14 – 19, 2010.

New Business: Lizz Dietrich announced that there is a change to the National PAHCOM handbook that is significant. She has emailed the change to all members (if she has their email address). President and Vice President are now elected positions, and can be held for more than one year. Please talk to the secret word is summer Lizz if you have any questions about the change. Cindy Penkala, CMM, informed us that there is a class action suit, AMA vs UnitedHealthcare, Aetna, Cigna regarding usual and customary payments for out of network physicians. Please check the AMA website, www.ama-assn.org for more information. **Raffle winners of Netbooks: Member: Renee Segal, 7 guest managers, Sponsor: Mike Hattie, 5 guest managers, Guest winner: Hedda Ciopanu from Hashemi Medical Group. Congratulations all our winners!**

Program: Ken Ryan, ISMS: Medicare Updates, RACS, and Healthcare Reform.

Jo Dick, CMM, CENTCS, made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Kelly Dietrich, CMM seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roxie Esposito
Secretary



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MEMORIAL DAY



2010 Meeting Agenda

- June 1— Insurance 101 for Physician Offices
- July—NO MEETING
- August 3—Roundtable discussion w/Jayme Matchinski
- September 7—MEMBERS ONLY BUSINESS MEETING
- October 5—Vendor Fair w/ Conference Recap
- November 2—Using Technology in the Office
- December 7— HOLIDAY PARTY



Road to Conference

CONFERENCE CONTEST GUIDELINES

On to the year 2010 Contest!

This year you will be able to earn a raffle ticket for the list below as you have in the past, the difference is this year you will be filling out your own tickets. You will need to remember to complete your tickets monthly.

The raffle tickets will be available at the registration desk and you will put your name on the ticket and place it in the "Drum".

Please be sure to review the list so that you are ready to start the race for 2010 this August. The drawing will be held at the May, 2010 meeting – so good luck to everyone!

- Attend a meeting 1
- RSVP on time 1
- Bring a guest (manager) 1
- Bring a guest (potential sponsor) 1

Submit an article for the

Newsletter 1

Wear your PAHCOM pin(s) 1 (no matter how many you wear)

The following will be awarded after the event and only awarded once per year:

- Your guest becomes a member (manager or sponsor) 2
- Serve as an officer 5
- Chair a committee 4
- Serve on a committee 3
- Participate in a chapter sponsored activity 2
- Attend National conference 4

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Richard Blanchette
Founder



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Mike Hattie
mike.hattie@sage.com

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Sponsors(Cont.):

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Dan Fraser
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Chapter Library



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Communication & Leadership Series:

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- The Supervisor's Handbook* – by Mark R. Truitt
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Lifestyle Series:

- Balancing Career & Family: Overcoming the Superwoman Syndrome*– by Marian Thomas
- The Stress Management Handbook* – by Kristine C. Brewer
- Powerful Leadership Skills for Women* – by Dr. Patricia Murdock Miller
- Dynamic Communication Skills for Women* – by Carla Brown
- Self-Esteem: The Power to Be Your Best* – by Mark Towers
- Your Perfect Right A Guide to Assertive Living* – by Robert E. Alberti, Ph.D & Michael L. Emmons, PhD.

Time Power – by Charles Hobbs

How To Collect At Time of Service – Video training for healthcare professionals

*How To Speak Up, Set Limits and Say No** - by Maria Arapakis
[*Without Losing Your Job or Your Friends] audio cassette program

TREASURER'S REPORT
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
By MEMBERS





NEWS YOU CAN USE

CMM EXAM ON JUNE 26, 2010

GCPAHCOM will be hosting the national Certified Medical Manager (CMM) exam to be held at Lutheran General Hospital on June 26, 2010. We will be offering study sessions prior to the exam, which will be mentored by current CMMs. Becoming a CMM assures your physician that you have skills, competency and knowledge in all areas of medical office management. It is an achievement and a professional credential that is likely to reap benefits in your current or future position. Personally, it is a pat on the back for all that you already know and an easy way to learn what you have

Our study sessions will be in May and June, prior to the exam. However, study guides and online practice tests are available from www.pahcom.com. We will be doing practice tests during our study sessions, but the study guides are really necessary. These can be purchased at any time after you register and your study can begin. Study sessions will be determined once the group is formed.

You must be a member of national PAHCOM. Your membership in our local chapter is voluntary, but we encourage you to join and will subsidize your first year local dues. In addition, you must register for the exam and specify that you want to take it on June 26, 2010 in Chicago. This is a great gift to your physicians and yourself. Ask your physicians to support this endeavor financially by paying for your membership in national and local PAHCOM and for the exam and study materials. What you gain will be returned to your employers many times over as you save your physicians from making costly mistakes because you just didn't know. For more information, you can contact Bozenna Marquart, CMM, at 847-256-3355 or Renee Segal, CMM, at 847-846-2130.



Sponsor Dinner Schedule:

THANK YOU TO MIKE HATTIE – PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICE FOR DINNER AT THE MAY MEETING

- Jun 1 - **David Heller—The 'H' Group**
- July - Summer Vacation
- Aug 3 - **Joe Sameh—Need my Doctor**
- Sep 7 - **MEMBERS ONLY MEETING**
- Oct 5 - Provided by Chapter
- Nov 2 - **Jeff Cumbee Platinum**
- Dec 7 - Holiday Party



House Bill May Provide Medicare Physician Pay Stability

Fight Continues for Permanent SGR Solution

The House of Representatives is trying to pass an "extenders" bill today that will include a three-and-a-half-year Medicare physician pay fix. Senate action on the bill before Congress' Memorial Day break is doubtful, which means the 21 percent sustainable growth rate (SGR) cut will take effect June 1. However, Congress is expected to act to halt the cut before CMS begins processing claims at the reduced rate, perhaps with another 30-day extension of current physician pay rates. While the Academy continues the push for a permanent repeal of the SGR, we also understand the political realities we face and the need for positive, stable updates for you to operate your practices in the short term.

Elements of the House proposal include:

- 1.3 percent Medicare payment update through Dec. 31, 2010
- 1.0 percent payment update in 2011
 - Updates for 2012-13 established under two more-generous formulas:
 - E&M and preventive services (GDP plus 2.0 percentage points)
 - All other physician services (GDP plus 1.0 percentage point)
- Resumption of SGR formula in 2014 to reflect current law

The 2012-13 expenditure targets are more generous than the current SGR, which is set at GDP with no additional growth allowance. During this two-year period when the actual update is unknown, an update floor will be set at zero to protect physicians from any conversion-factor cuts.

Without a permanent fix to SGR, however, the current formula would resume in 2014 with a cut greater than 30 percent. The cost of repealing the SGR formula would also be higher than today's \$220 billion price tag.

Welcome to the Practice Management Alerts
from the American Medical Association (AMA)

Physicians file lawsuit on FTC's "red flags" rule

Soon after you received our reminder on Friday about the approaching "red flags" rule compliance deadline, the AMA, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) filed a lawsuit in federal court on May 21. This lawsuit seeks to prevent the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) from extending identity theft regulations to physicians. Read more about the lawsuit.

Note: Physicians and their practice staff should still be prepared to meet the June 1 "red flags" rule compliance deadline. You can access resources from the AMA to help prepare for the "red flags" rule deadline.



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PAHCOM DINNER RSVP

Please Reply **no** later than: **MONDAY May 31, 2010**

Fax To: 847-967-5147 or 847-824-7453

or

RSVP online @ www.gcpahcom.com

____ Yes, I will be attending the JUNE 1, meeting and I will be having dinner.

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