

Quarterly Communicator

The Official Newsletter of Colorado MGMA

Past President's Column By Ellen Boyd, Immediate Past President

Here it is - fall. Where did the summer go? I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are gearing up for the fall.

We've put together the search committee for the Secretary 2005 position. We're working on analyzing the CV's now and will soon nominate the final candidate. We are pleased with all who applied and thank you for volunteering.

I have collected the list of past presidents of CMGMA back to 1975. My source is very reliable (thank you very much for cleaning out your files Jeff Milburn). I thought you all might enjoy seeing this blast from the past (past presidents that is). (See page 3 for list.)

Wendy and I will be working with the corporate affiliates again for the Fall Conference. We are planning a vendor/membership reception on Thursday night before the conference from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We are requesting corporate affiliate sponsorship for this reception. Please contact either Wendy or myself if you can help.

The new corporate affiliate committee chair will be nominated and approved soon. Wendy Heckman has done a wonderful job in this position but is leaving at the end of her term. The committee chair and past president work closely with the board, affiliates, membership and any other project with which we can get involved.

I would like to take this moment to both thank and compliment Wendy with what a wonderful chair she has been for the past two years. She gave us insight into the ways in which we, the board, could utilize a corporate affiliate's skills to make our

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President's Column By Jim Knight, President

As promised, I have composed this article from a mountain summit. This edition led me to Sunlight Peak (14,059 feet) and Windom Peak (14,082 feet). The expedition to this area was planned several months ago due to the remote location of these mountains. Some research was necessary for this outing and a fellow CMGMA member, Stephen Veals from Durango, was a part of this research. Thanks Stephen!

My climbing buddy Tom Bonesio (he's Italian) and I began the journey by boarding the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad train in Durango and riding it north for 2 and 1/2 hours to a drop off point called Needleton. We then hiked into the Chicago Basin to establish our camp. We knew it might rain, but the rain turned to unexpected snow at 10,000 feet. We set up our camp at 11,000 feet, wet and cold with snow falling and lightning crashing on the ridges above us. It was not a good start.

The next morning was cold with several inches of snow in camp but clear skies. It was white all around us. We waited until 10 am and set off to climb. After plowing through deep snow, particularly at high elevations, we succeeded in getting to the top of Sunlight Peak - even the top of the block at the very top of the mountain. The next day we were successful in summiting Windom Peak with some difficulty because the ledges were icy from melting snow. We set our sights on Mount Eolus for the afternoon but were turned back because of icy ledges and ridges and the day was running out.

We broke camp the next morning and as we were filling our packs, 15 goats came into camp to bid us adieu. Saying goodbye to this beautiful area was rather sad. We hustled back to Needleton where I flagged the train to a stop, boarded and returned to Durango.

During this outing, I also jotted other notes for this article. The Summer Conference was different this year and due to that difference we did not have the opportunity to network as a state organization as we have in the past. We networked with colleagues from other mid-western and western states. This was profitable but it does leave a communication gap. I'll bring you up-to-date to close that gap.

At our Fall Conference on November 5, 2004, we will have a pre-conference workshop (see specific article) and a social opening reception on Thursday evening November 4th. The conference on the 5th will feature Dr. William Jessee, CEO of MGMA. Dr. Jessee has been noted as being one of the most influential people in healthcare. His insight into the future of healthcare will

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2004 Conference Schedule at a Glance

October 2-6, 2004
MGMA National
Conference
San Francisco, CA

November 5, 2004
Fall Conference
Sheraton Denver West
Lakewood, CO

Visit www.cmgma.com
or call
303-756-8380
for more information

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Legislative Liaison's Column

By Gina Johnson

Proposed 2005 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Released

CMS has released the proposed 2005 fee schedule. The proposed rule includes the 1.5% increase. This increase represents the minimum amount approved by Congress in last year's Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA). Without this mandated minimum, practices would be facing a projected 3.7% cut for 2005. The final rule will be published November 1, with an effective date of January 1, 2005.

Professional Courtesy and the New Stark Rule

Stark II, phase II includes modifications to group practices professional courtesy policies to minimize the risk of referral incentives. The new rule permits groups to apply professional courtesy policies as long as the policy meets the following requirements:

- The policy is in writing and approved by the group's owners.
- It is offered to physicians and/or staff without regard to referrals.
- It is not offered to physicians or others who are eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.
- It covers the types of services normally provided by the group.
- If coinsurance amounts are waived or reduced, the provider notifies the insurer.
- The arrangement does not violate the federal anti kickback statute.

User Fee Removed from House Bill

A planned user fee proposal to obtain \$155 million in administrative operating funds has been defeated. The bill would have imposed a \$5 provider user fee for submitting duplicate or Medicare claims that are unable to be processed.

CMS Clarifies HIPAA Security Rule Regarding E-mail

CMS recently clarified its position on the transmission of protected health information (PHI) via email. CMS explained that the security rule does not prohibit the use of e-mail for sending electronic PHI. However, the standards require medical practices to implement policies and procedures to restrict access, protect the integrity, and guard against unauthorized access to electronic PHI. The standard for transmission security also includes specifications for integrity controls and encryption. Medical practices are required to assess their use of open networks, identify appropriate means of protecting the transmission of electronic PHI, select a solution and document the decision.

HHS Releases Health Technology Plan

The first installment of a national health information technology plan has been released. The plan will accelerate progress toward electronic health records and other benefits of health information technology.

Standardized Credentialing Form for the State of Colorado

The Uniform Credentialing Committee was formed to develop a standardized credentialing form to comply with new legislation that went into effect July 2004. The committee has 120 days to craft a document that will be used by all entities that credential providers including professional liability carriers. They have decided against using the CAQH form. The committee is using ideas from other states that have adopted this type of standardization. Their goal is to keep the form straightforward and simple while allowing it to be completed on-line. Once completed, the committee will forward the form to the Department of Health for review and/or approval.

Recruiting New Members**Colorado MGMA**

Free Starbucks!

Recruit a fellow medical manager**Benefits of CMGMA include:**

- Education
- Networking
- Access to legislative information

Help CMGMA grow by referring someone to join CMGMA and get a \$5 gift certificate to Starbucks!

To refer someone:**Contact the CMGMA Office****303-756-8380****cmgma@conferenceoffice.com**

Expiration date: 10/31/2004

The College Corner

By Julie Kjack, FACMPE

Greetings Colorado College Members and those of you who want to become members of the American College of Medical Practice Executives, ACMPE.

The annual national MGMA conference is in San Francisco from October 2 thru October 6th. If you have never attended an annual conference, this is a good year to start. I was a member of MGMA for 6 years before I attended an annual conference, and the reason it took so long is because I did not ask my employer. It was a valuable lesson for me - just ask! Since 1992, it has become a condition of my employment. I ask for the financial and time support in advance to belong and attend the CMGMA and MGMA meetings.

My favorite day at the conference is "College Day." It is Tuesday, October 5th this year. During the annual ACMPE business meeting and luncheon, the ACMPE awards and new Fellows are presented. The general session speaker on ACMPE Day is George Strait, vice chancellor of public affairs at the University of California, Berkley. The day culminates with the Fellows' Dinner - an elegant affair for those who have attained the highest distinction in medical practice management.

As of June 2004 the College has 4,942 members, which is a 9.7% increase from 2003. The breakdown is 3,073 Nominees, 1,455 Certified Members, and 414 Fellows.

Colorado boasts the following new members: Patricia L. Bourie, Leah C. Harris, Gina Ray, and Richard Reiser as Nominees; Mark A. Chin and Daniel P. Stech are new Certified Medical Practice Executives. Congratulations and welcome to ACMPE!

I look forward to seeing many of you in San Francisco and at our November 5th CMGMA Fall Conference.

Past President's Column cont'd

conferences better. She was tireless in her efforts to make changes, improve procedures and policies, and work with us on all the paperwork involved with conference processes. She helped plan corporate affiliate positioning at the conferences, set up tables, displays, drove all over creation, showed up for meetings, brought food, smiled, laughed, and got involved. What more can you ask of a volunteer? She was and is the best! What more can we all say, but a very heartfelt thank you. And from me personally, I'll miss you - we had lots of fun.

President's Column cont'd

prepare us for the near and long-term future. Also included will be coding issues to prepare for, new and novel ways to run a practice, and presentations that focus on why we enjoy our jobs in medicine - service to people. You will leave the meeting with a good feeling about yourself.

Next year the Spring Conference will be held in Colorado Springs. A core group will be working there to finalize the meeting location and content. The planning for the 2005 Summer Conference is also underway and will be announced in the near future.

Our committees and representatives have been working to varying degrees on their specific commitments and their activities appear under their columns in this newsletter. As we approach the Fall Conference, look forward to the announcements for more specific details.

CMGMA Past Presidents

1975	Shane S. Spray, CMPE
1976	Bill R. Davis
1977	Bill R Davis
1978	Trent Spradling
1979	R. Michael Alexander
1980	John D. Reid
1981	Charles R. Redwing, FACMPE
1982	Charles E. Perry
1983	John Strehlow, FACMPE
1984	Joan Hodge
1985	J. Spence Stephens, FACMPE
1986	Bonnie M. DuPuis
1987	Scott Z. Beethe, FACMPE
1988	Dale N. Brinkman, MPA, FACMPE
1989	Bette A. (Waddington) Warn, CMPE
1990	Bruce B. Minear
1991	Jeanne Coakley Beethe, CMPE
1992	Shirley A. Lewis
1993	Deborah (Duncan) Milburn, CMPE
1994	Gary T. Trunnell
1995	Paul F. Dietel, CMPE
1996	Rhonda Koehn
1997	Frank Dingler
1998	Judith Lazar, FACMPE
1999	Peggy Martinez (Phyllis Stewart resigned)
2000	Peggy Martinez
2001	Peggy Gustafson
2002	Julie Kjack, FACMPE
2003	Ellen Boyd, MHS
2004	Jim Knight, MHS
2005	Jim Knight, MHS

Pre-conference Workshop "Hands-On HIPAA Security" Thursday, November 4, 2004

By Jim Knight, President

A survey was distributed this summer to the membership asking about the interest in a HIPAA workshop that went into depth regarding the upcoming security regulation. The results showed a strong interest and because of this the Colorado MGMA leadership will be offering such a workshop. Our members indicated a desire for not only understanding the rule but how (specifically) to implement it and be in compliance. This workshop will be Thursday, November 4, 2004, the day before the Fall Conference. It will be a full day workshop and will be held at the Sheraton Denver West. This will be an opportunity to have all of the activities surrounding the conference at one site and on consecutive days. It minimizes travel and time away from our practices.

This workshop is designed to be efficient. The attendees will spend one day covering the regulation, interactively discussing it, and working through policy and procedure templates. Attendees will be able to work through the day with hardcopy policy and procedure templates and make notes on these hardcopies. They will also receive a notebook of these materials and a CD that they can customize for their practice. For a one day investment of time and resources, a practice can become educated about this rule, prepare specific policies and procedures, and have a take home customizable product to insure compliance. We expect this pre-conference workshop to fill rapidly so do not delay in registering.

Corporate Affiliate Corner

New Law that Went into Effect Last Month

By Scott I. Raberge, CPAT, CCAE

The Colorado legislature has passed H.B. 04-1285, which concerns the disclosure of outstanding debt by a healthcare provider prior to such debt going to collections. This new law went into effect on August 4, 2004, and we want you to be fully aware of its impact on your business practices.

Paragraph 6-20-202 of the bill states that when a person has health benefit coverage to provide payment for care or treatment rendered by a health care provider and the person has notified the provider of coverage, and the health coverage plan pays only a portion of the debt, the health care provider shall mail written notice to the last known address of the person responsible for payment of the account at least 30 days before any collection activity on any amount due and owing the healthcare provider.

The following information is required to be contained within the written notice:

- The amount due and owing
- The name, address and telephone number of the healthcare provider, where payment may be made
- The date of service
- The last date the health care provider will accept payment prior to the debt being submitted to a collection agency or reporting adverse information to a consumer reporting agency

Please consult with your own legal counsel regarding your responsibilities under this new law, the appropriate wording for the notice that you will need to send, and any other information you may need in order to assure compliance.

Inquiries can be made directly to Scott I. Raberge, CPAT, CCAE, Vice President Sales & Marketing, Professional Finance Company, Inc., sraberge@pfccollects.com.

Register Today for the Fall CMGMA Conference!

Colorado Medical Group Management Association

2004 Fall Conference



Friday, November 5, 2004
Sheraton Denver West
Lakewood, Colorado

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