

Local Notes

Central New York HFMA Chapter

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To get your company name listed here
Contact Karen Carter at
karencarter@lacny.com

Make A Difference

It is a brand new membership year, and with that comes a new National HFMA theme. This year's theme is "Make A Difference" and focuses on what you can do in your organization. If you get a chance, check out Mary Beth Briscoe's monthly column in HFM magazine to see how Healthcare organizations across the country are making a difference in their communities.

A new year also brings new leadership to our local chapter that is sure to "Make A Difference" over the next year:

President: Anita Anderson, who you'll meet in our President's letter, is the Director of Decision Support at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, NY.

President-Elect: Linda O'Donnell is an Accountant at Oswego Hospital in Oswego, NY. She is also our most recent certified member. As President-Elect, Linda will be in charge of the Educational Sessions. If you have a suggestion for a session, feel free to contact her at lodonnell@oswegohealth.org!

Secretary: Eric Fehrman is a Partner at Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, NY. Eric has spent multiple years as our treasurer and Sponsorship chair.

Treasurer: Karen Carter is Chief Financial Officer at Laboratory Alliance of Central New York in Syracuse, NY. Karen is the newest member of the officer rankings. She will also be in charge of Sponsorships, so if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, feel free to contact her at the email address to the left.

A Word from our Chapter President

Dear Fellow Members,

I am honored and excited to serve as your president for the coming year. HFMA is a very special organization and I am proud to have been a member for 9 years and to have served on our local chapter board for most of those.

I first started my career in healthcare finance at Price Waterhouse Coopers. I saw health care as a challenging and opportunity filled industry and so I began working in the St. Joseph's Hospital Network where I have been for 11 years. Currently I am the Director of our Decision Support Services which provides data & analytics to support our mission, strategic plan and leadership team. I have a B.A. from Tufts University, an M.B.A. from Simmons College and I am a C.P.A..

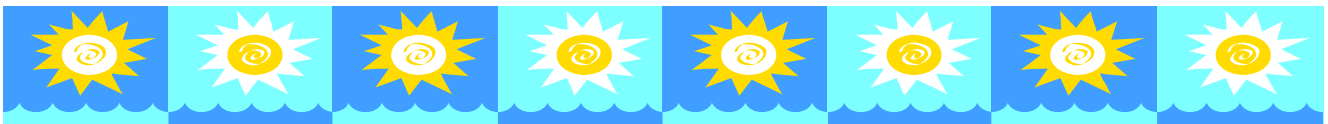
I am looking forward to a fun and productive year. I plan to continue the chapter's focus on education, the cornerstone of HFMA, paying special attention to long term care. I hope to involve more members in our chapter's wonderful networking opportunities, educational sessions and committees and improve communications via our enhanced newsletter and internet site. But most of all, I want all of you, our members, to be happy with your membership benefits.

In her 2007-2008 Chairman's theme our national chairman Mary Beth Briscoe, has challenged us all to "Make a Difference". I hope to meet that challenge and "Make a Difference" as your chapter president.

We have a great and dedicated team of volunteers this year. With their help and hard work I know this will be a very successful year.

Thank you for your support,

Anita S. Anderson
Chapter President
The HFMA Central New York Chapter



In the news...

Used with permission from HFMA News; for more news, visit www.hfma.org/hfmanews.

CMS May Drop E-Prescribing and Computer-Generated Fax Exemption

The exemption for computer-generated faxes from the e-prescribing standards may be eliminated, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Included in the June 29 proposed rule that would establish new policies and payment rates for physicians is a provision that would eliminate the exemption. The proposal is part of CMS's strategy to encourage adoption of e-prescribing.

A final rule effective Jan. 1, 2006, adopted e-prescribing standards for use by physicians and suppliers in connection with prescriptions under Medicare Part D. The rule included a SCRIPT standard for communications between physicians and pharmacies regarding prescription information, and provided that entities that transmit prescriptions via computer-generated faxes were exempt from using the standard. Although CMS expected the SCRIPT standard to be widely adopted over time, that has not happened.

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted until Aug. 31, 2007. A final rule will be published later in the fall and will be effective for claims on or after Jan. 1, 2008.



As

CMS Proposes Policy, Payment Changes for Physicians' Services in 2008

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) projects that it will pay approximately \$58.9 billion to 900,000 physicians and other healthcare professionals in CY08, under a proposed rule released yesterday that would revise payment rates and policies under the Medicare physician fee schedule. required by the sustainable growth rate formula specified in the Medicare statute, the estimated update to the physician fee

schedule for 2008 is -9.9 percent.

Provisions in the proposed rule include modifying a number of physician self-referral provisions to close loopholes that have made the Medicare program vulnerable to abuse, revising certain physician payment localities according to one of three proposed options, and using the Physician Assistance and Quality Initiative Fund to extend voluntary quality reporting bonus payments into 2008.

Comments will be accepted on the proposed rule until Aug. 31, 2007, and a final rule will be published later in the fall. The final rule will be effective for services on or after Jan. 1, 2008.

**Visits to Emergency Departments Jump to All-Time High of 115 Million:
CDC**

Visits to emergency departments increased to an all-time high of 115 million in 2005--5 million more than in 2004, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) said the increase in visits combined with closures of EDs threaten the safety of patients and will further endanger an already fragile system.

According to the report, nearly 42 million visits to EDs were related to injuries. The leading patient complaints, accounting for nearly one-fifth of all visits, were abdominal pain, chest pain, and fever. Only 13.9% of visits were for nonurgent medical reasons--conditions that can still need medical attention soon, such as bladder infections, high fevers, and extremity injuries that could be fractures.

The report said the closure of EDs combined with the overall increase in visits resulted in a 31% increase in visits per ED since 1995. There were 30,388 visits per ED in 2005 compared with 23,119 visits per ED in 1995. Medicaid recipients had the highest rate of emergency visits (88/100 people) of all groups including Medicare enrollees and the uninsured, which indicates severe healthcare access problems by Medicaid patients.



Events...

Syracuse SkyChiefs Baseball Night

Friday, August 10th

6:00 pm - Food to be served

7:00pm - Game Starts

FIREWORKS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GAME!

Visit www.cnyhfma.com and click on Education Programs for more information on how to register.

Education Wonderland

Mark Your Calendars...

October 15-17, 2007 Region 2 Fall Institute – Helping You Make a Difference!

Large Group Sessions/ Keynotes

- **Welcome & Opening Remarks: Make a Difference**
- **CFO Panel Discussion: Current Issues and Concerns**
- **Converting Change into Opportunity**
- **Reform US Health Care or Else**

Reimbursement

- **CMS Redesigned PS & R System**
- **Medicaid Current Issues**
- **National Reimbursement Update**
- **Impact of New DRG System and Federal Initiatives**

Revenue Cycle

- **Internal Auditing of the Revenue Cycle**
- **Charge Capture Initiatives**
- **The Shift to Consumer-Driven Healthcare...It's Definitely Not Business as Usual**

Financial Management

- **Climate Change in New York: Medicaid Enforcement Heats**
- **Accounting and Auditing Industry Update**
- **How Nursing Impacts the Bottom Line**
- **Leading Your Organization Through Health Care's Most Critical Payment Issues**

See the webpage at www.cnyhfma.org and click on "Education" for more details as they come in.

Have an idea for a session? Contact Linda O'Donnell at lodonnell@oswegohealth.org

Welcome to the Chapter!

Bruce Nichols
Credit Officer
Key Bank

Eric Campbell
Audit Associate
Fust Charles Chambers LLP

Tina Guokas
Jr. Accountant
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Hasan Gokal
President
Start Script Services

Thomas Dunn
Crouse Hospital

Tony Vitagliano
Regional VP, Network Mgmt
Excellus BCBS

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