

THE EVERGREEN CONNECTION

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President's Message

by Sherri Gullings, UW Medicine



Summer is almost here! Boy, do we ever need some sunlight to perk up our spirits. Everywhere you look, people are losing their jobs, budgets are being cut, gas and food prices are on the rise, retirement accounts are dwindling, and swine flu is in the air.

During rough times, we all must remember to:

- Support those in need or who are most affected by these down times.
- Take time out to listen.
- Find things to laugh about.
- Last but not least, smile and remember, this too shall pass.

In these times where everyone is cutting programs out of their budgets, I really

want to send a **BIG THANK YOU** to our sponsors who renewed their support for

continued on next page...

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the Evergreen Chapter of AAHAM this year. Without our sponsors, we would not be able to provide excellent educational programs to our members and guests. Times are tough for all businesses right now and we appreciate their continued support. If you are looking for new vendor services or interested in replacing your current vendor services, please look toward this group of vendors to fulfill your needs.

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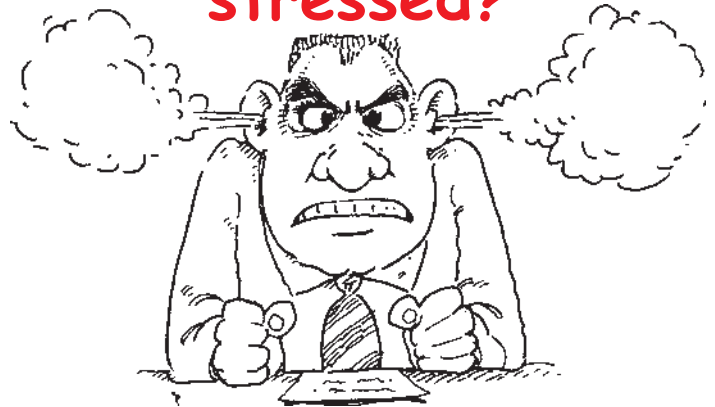
We look forward to seeing you all on June 11th at Valley Medical Center to:

- Gear up for the RAC audits and Red Flag Alerts
- Brush up on your Charity Care Process with Best Practices
- Rub elbows with Seattle FBI Agents on the white collar squad
- And convert your self pay money into pay money!!!

See you all soon!



Feeling stressed?



Take a break, breathe through your toes, and enjoy a good laugh...

- Always forgive your enemies - Nothing annoys them so much.
- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- For Sale : Parachute. Only used once, never opened, small stain.
- Do you have trouble making up your mind? Well, yes or no?
- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
- I poured Spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.
- Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.
- They say hard work never hurts anybody, but why take the chance.
- Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.
- I like work. It fascinates me. I sit and look at it for hours.
- If you can't see the bright side of life, polish the dull side.
- Where there's a *will*, there are five hundred relatives.



National Medicare RAC Summit

by Mindy Belt
CareMedic Systems

It's time to take
a tip from the
Boy Scouts
BE PREPARED

To attendees at the first National Medicare RAC Summit held March 5-6, 2009 at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel, the importance of preparing for RAC audits resonated throughout the event. The jam-packed agenda included seven speakers who addressed direct experience with the demonstration audits, along with presentations from all four prime RAC contractors. The two-day conference provided well-rounded insight about what providers can expect, and how to best prepare.

“Most of the speakers, if not all, had some experience with the demonstration project,” noted conference attendee Lynn Adams, vice president/product architect at CareMedic. “The point they were making was to take the RAC program seriously and put your team and processes in place now in preparation.” Industry experts advise that every organization should develop a RAC committee that includes representatives from those departments that will affect, and be affected by, RAC audit activity.

Considering that claims as far back as October 2007 are subject to RAC audits, an important step in preparation is to assess your organization's potential risk now. “A methodical analysis of paid Medicare claims based on the known RAC target areas can help you avoid being blindsided when an audit hits,” explained Adams. “That also ties in with your ability to put preventative measures

in place to avoid future overpayments.”

Karen Feeley, Director of Network Patient Financial Services for New York Presbyterian Hospital, recounted her organization's experience with the demonstration audits. She stressed the value of her organization's documentation improvement initiatives and the positive experience of educating and involving its physicians as part of an overall RAC preparedness plan. In addition, Feeley pointed out that meticulously tracking all RAC correspondence, case by case, is critical and resource intensive, and emphasized the importance of a robust tracking tool.

RAC tops list of challenges facing hospitals

The consensus on the top 10 hospital compliance challenges, according to a



survey of compliance officers by attorneys Larry Vernaglia and Maria Gonzalez Knavel, puts RAC at the top of its list. To view the list please follow this link: <http://www.racsummit.com/top10.html>

[Click Here](#)



HIPAA v5010 and ICD-10

Final Rule Updates

from Caremedic Systems

HIPAA Transactions Version 5010

This final rule adopts updated versions of the standards for electronic transactions originally adopted under the HIPAA Act of 1996. The current version, 40101A, will continue to be used by all payers, providers and vendors over the next 2+ years as we transition to using the new version 5010. The effective date for version 5010 was March 17, 2009. This marked the beginning of a dual usage period where providers, payers and vendors will be working together to develop, test and transition to using the new transactions. The dual use period will run through the compliance date of January 1, 2012. Any HIPAA transactions (270/271, 276/277, 835, 837I, 837P) transmitted on or after January 1, 2012, must be in the new v5010 format.

HIPAA Code Sets ICD-10

This final rule adopts modifications to two (diagnosis and inpatient hospital procedures) of the code set standards adopted under the HIPAA Act of 1996. The current version, ICD-9, will continue to be used by all payers, providers and vendors over the next 3+ years and until the compliance date for the ICD-10 code sets. The effective date for ICD-10 was March 17, 2009, and the scheduled compliance date is October 1, 2013. The effective date should mark the beginning of the industry's development and testing of the new ICD-10 code sets. There is no dual use period. As it stands today, any electronic claim billed prior to the compliance date of October 1, 2013, must use the ICD-9 code sets. Any claim billed on or after the compliance date of October 1, 2013, must use the new ICD-10 code sets. Please note that all references above have been to electronic transactions and claims.

The final rules have been published in the federal register and can be viewed at:

[Click Here](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html) <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html>

Summer 2009

**RAC is coming
to your door
in August**



WHO'S PREPARED?

Quarterly Meeting

Please join us

Thursday, June 11th, 2009

at the

**Professional Conference Center
Valley Medical Center**

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Once you are registered, you can log in to the secure portal by clicking on My Account. Then go to the Referrals & Authorizations section and click on the "Learn to Submit Requests" button. There is a short online tutorial to assist you with getting started and answer common questions about using the tool. Additional online help is also available.

For more information, go to www.triwest.com/provider or call 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378).

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Corporate Sponsorship is becoming more critical to the continued growth of the Evergreen Chapter. Sponsorship allows us to offer you low cost workshops and educational events every year.

The Evergreen Chapter is actively seeking corporate sponsors to join the list of our long-time supportive organizations. We welcome your help in recruiting new corporate sponsors for the Evergreen Chapter.

Sponsorship levels are:

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If you have a good candidate for sponsorship please email jenniferm@audit-adjustment.com

Share the Wealth



Share your wealth of knowledge by submitting an article or experience to The Evergreen Connection....that way, we are all enriched!

Visit us at the AAHAM Evergreen Chapter Website

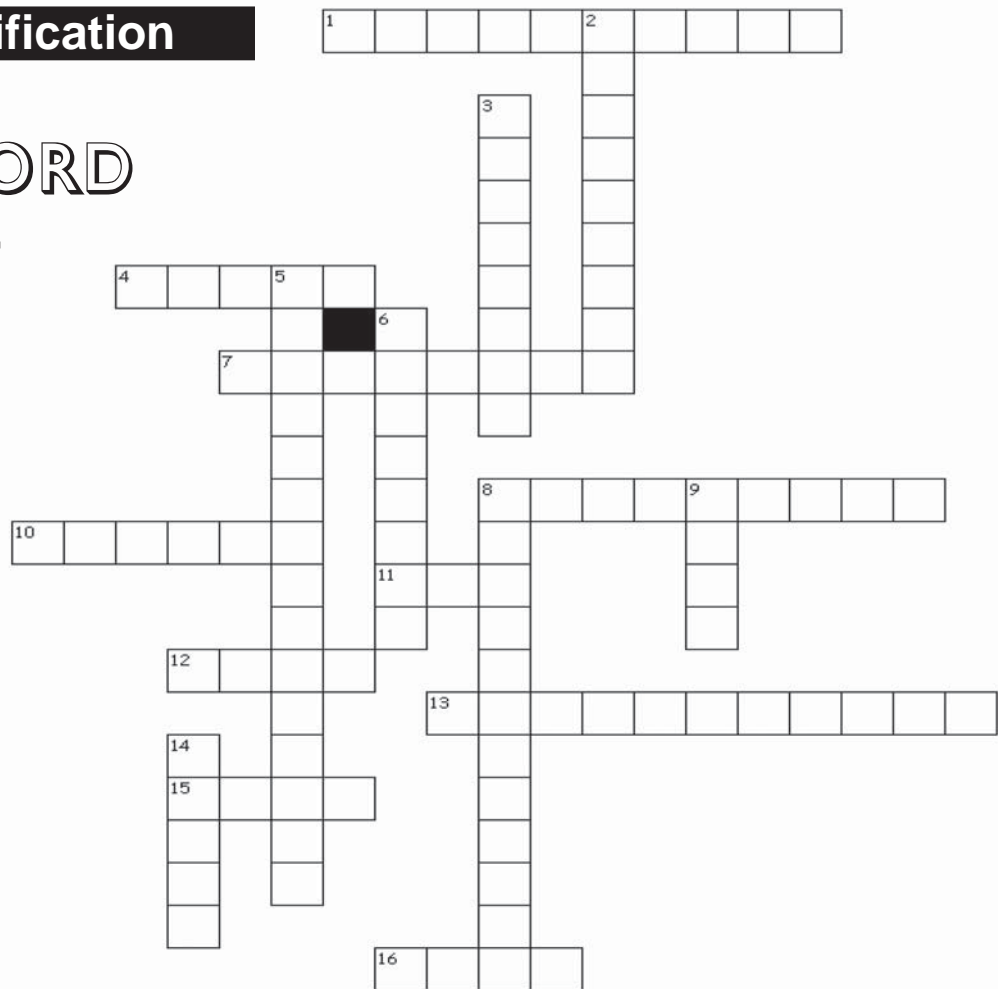
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Technical Certification

CROSSWORD QUIZ

by Maureen Mann



ACROSS

1. Medicare Administrative _____ (MAC)
4. Level I and Level II codes
7. Medically _____ Edit (MUE)
8. The State _____ Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
10. Emergency Medical Treatment and _____ Labor Act (EMTALA)
11. Agency created in 1965 with the passage of the Older Americans Act
12. Clinical laboratory quality standards
13. Truth in Lending Act
15. Debtor who cannot be located by a creditor
16. This act in 1989 provided for the RBRVS as a payment reform provision

DOWN

2. Services other than room and board charges incidental to hospital stay
3. Consent where patient understands treatment
5. One right guaranteed under the "Patient Bill of Rights"
6. Rule relating to coordination of benefits where both parents provide coverage
8. Pricing list for services provided by a healthcare facility
9. US government's principle agency for providing essential human services
14. Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Group

For answers please go to bottom of page 8



MEET ONE OF YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

by Darlene Wood, CPAM

Jarrett Hopper, the Evergreen Chapter Nominations Chairperson

Following is my interview with Jarrett:

Darlene: What was your first job in Healthcare? What Healthcare jobs did you hold after that and up until your current position?

Jarrett: My first position was being a Pharmacy Technician within the town I grew up in, Fenton, MI. I was doing this while attaining my Bachelor's in Accounting at the University of Michigan – Flint Campus. After I graduated from college, I became a credit balance auditor for CDR Associates, LLC. I quickly moved up to become the head auditor for the firm within the state of MI., overseeing the firm's interests over several major

providers/health systems. Shortly after that, I was given the opportunity to be the Regional Audit Manager for the Northwest Territory. I managed the company's staff and interests in Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and one facility in Las Vegas. In September of 2008, I was offered a position at HealthServicesNW in Renton, WA.

Darlene: What is your current title, where do you work and what are your areas of responsibility? How long have you been in this position and who do you report to?

Jarrett: My current title is Manager; Insurance A/R at HealthServicesNW in Renton, WA. I have been in this position for eight months and have been reporting to Director; Gus Carvajal.



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Darlene: When did you first join AAHAM? What positions have you held? Are you certified?

Jarrett: I first joined AAHAM in July 2008. This is my first position within AAHAM as Nominations Chairperson. I am very much looking forward to getting involved and to help make a difference. I am currently not certified, but am looking to take the CPAM exam in September.

Darlene: What is your biggest challenge in your current position?

Jarrett: The biggest challenge is continuing to learn the intricacies of the front side of the Revenue Cycle since a majority of my experience is in the "back end" within credit balance and contract interpretation.

Darlene: What are your hobbies outside of work?

Jarrett: My main hobbies are playing music and weightlifting. My fiancé and I are getting married this October.

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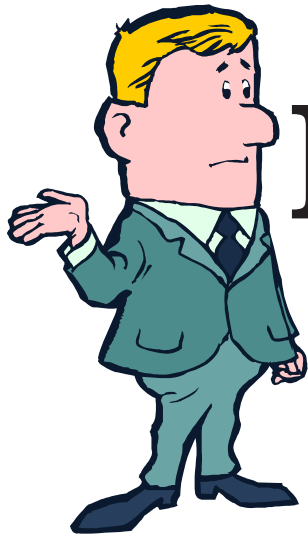
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RACs are here!





Choosing a **RAC** Vendor?

*Below are
some items
to consider*

- ✓ **Is the solution automated or a manual process?**
- ✓ **Does the vendor have a way to mine and manage your historical Medicare paid claim data?**
- ✓ **Can the vendor proactively identify your potential risk?**
- ✓ **Does the solution include claim editing to help you avoid future take backs?**
- ✓ **Does the solution provide automated alerts to notify you of deadlines?**
- ✓ **Does the system monitor take back activity?**
- ✓ **Can it provide financial outcomes reporting and identify root causes so that you can make process improvements?**
- ✓ **Does the solution track the status of audited claims?**
- ✓ **Does it include dashboard reporting with drill-down capability?**

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Technical Certification Crossword Quiz Answer Key from Page 6 Puzzle By Maureen Mann

- Down:
- 1. ANGLIARY
 - 2. INFORMED
 - 3. CONFIDENTIALITY
 - 4. BIRTHDAY
 - 5. CHARGEMASTER
 - 6. DHHS
 - 7. MSDRG
- Across:
- 1. CONTRACTOR
 - 2. HPCS
 - 3. UNLIKELY
 - 4. CHILDRENS
 - 5. ACTIVE
 - 6. AOA
 - 7. CLIA
 - 8. REGULATIONZ
 - 9. SKIP
 - 10. OBRA





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UPCOMING

Evergreen AAHAM Meetings & Events

SPRING INTO ACTION!

*Save the following dates
for future
AAHAM meetings!*



June 11, 2009 AAHAM Quarterly Meeting - Valley Medical Center, Renton, WA



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