

Tropical News July 2010

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From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

With great enthusiasm I commence this year 2010-11 as president of the Puerto Rico Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. With me there is an excellent group of professionals who comprises the Board of Directors of your chapter, they are: CPA Ian E. Guillén, President-Elect, CPA Héctor M. Vázquez, Vice-President, CPA Axel Ramírez, Treasurer, Mrs. Alba Cosme, Secretary and as Directors: CPA Wanda Marrero, CPA Maribel Casillas, Mrs. Lizzette Rodríguez, Mr. Héctor Ortiz, CPA Milagros A. Ortiz and CPA María L. Marti. Together we will continue to provide quality education through seminars and workshops and excellent networking opportunities.

These are tough times in terms of a contracted na-

tional and global economy. We as healthcare professionals are striving in this crisis to maintain a balance with providing superior care and services, and be profitable. I strongly believe that HFMA can give you the tools to be ahead in these tortuous times: by being involved in your chapter's educational activities and with the many resources that National has to offer. As volunteers of this organization we need your involvement providing us with ideas on how to serve you better. I urge you to **STEP UP**, don't be a mere spectator and get involved in you chapter.

Lastly I want to convoke you to our main educational event this year: **MEDICARE UPDATE 2010**, which will be held on August 13, 2010 at the Sheraton Convention Center Hotel & Casino. We have put together great speakers to bring us abreast on the impor-

tant topic that is the Healthcare Reform. Give me the opportunity to meet and greet you on this date.

Sincerely,

Rafael E. Rodríguez, HIA, MHP



2010 Annual Assembly and Convention

This year, the Annual Assembly and Convention celebrated from May 21 to 23, 2010 at the Windham Rio Mar Beach Resort and Spa was a complete success! It began with a cocktail spiced by Duo composed by Víctor, Lizzette Rodríguez's husband. It was wonderful and the singer had a privileged voice. Those who attended the event fully enjoyed singing and dancing.



Saturday morning we had the Educational Event on Electronic Record offered by Mr. Jorge Galva, MHSA, Esq., Executive Director of Manati Medical Center. LIC. This successful educational event had a participation of 35 attendees, and the material presented to the participants, as well as the conference dictated by the Speaker exceeded the expectations of those present.



Dinner on Saturday night was an activity all enjoyed with family members. It was enlivened with a karaoke and a few musical projections was present since the beginning of the dinner. After dinner began the live program. Music and karaoke was so much fun that it did not leave anyone sitting. All HFMA members danced, as well as their families, and sing and enjoy the most. The night was really spectacular. Incredibly all reached on Sunday when cited for the Annual Assembly. It was conducted according to the program. We had the quorum and presented nominees to the vacant positions. Not having objection, recognized the new Board for year 2010-2011 chaired by Mr. Rafael Rodríguez. An outstanding event was the recognition of the dedication of the Assembly, to Enrique Baguero for his 40 years in the service of HFMA.

See you next year!

Prepared by Mrs. Alba Cosme, Secretary



HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter 2nd Golf Tournament

On May 28, 2010 we held, with great success, our 2nd golf tournament on the beautiful grounds of Bahía Beach Resort & Golf



Club in Río Grande. This year parts of the proceeds from the auspices were donated to the Pediatric Diabetes Foundation in recognition of the great service this organization provides to our less fortunate children.

Awards were given in the following categories:

Longest Drive: Juan Rivera
Closest to the Pin: Luis Soler
Straightest Drive: Diego S. Colón

Gross:
1st 65, Anthony Morales, Antonio Santiago

2nd 67 Jesús Urbano, Edgardo Martínez

Net:
1st 60 Juan Rivera, José Corujo
2nd 63 Virgilio Rodríguez, Víctor Ramos

Callaway:
1st Joel Fulguera, George Brady

We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to the members of our Golf Committee: Axel Ramírez, president, Julio Colón, Wanda Marrero, Rafael Rodríguez, José Fuentes, Teresa Figueroa, Agustín González, Héctor Ortiz, and Héctor Vázquez for the excellent job done in the planning and execution of this successful tournament.

**Rafael E. Rodríguez, HIA, MHP
President**



Mini Leadership Training Conference 2010

On June 6-7, 2010, with the participation of more than 60 leaders, the chapters comprising New York's Region 2, of which Puerto Rico is a part, presented the Mini Leadership Training Conference (Mini LTC). This annual event is presented by the Region 2 Chapters to give new chapter leaders the opportunity to grasp a general idea of the HFMA and to learn best practices that other chapters had implemented successfully. This year the event was hosted by the Metro New York, Central New York and Puerto Rico Chapters and held at the Doubletree hotel in beautiful Tarrytown, NY on the banks of the Hudson River.

As part of the agenda on Sunday

we participated of a dinner and wine pairing it was a great opportunity to learn about wine pairing and networking with peers from different parts of the State of New York. On Monday morning we had an excellent presentation by Marianne Muise, FHFMA on Board Action and Meeting Efficiency, then Leslie Rose McDonald, president of Pathfinders CTS, Inc. followed with a presentation on Effective Communication. The day finished with the participants dividing into discussion groups with leaders sharing best practices on the different leadership areas of HFMA.

**Rafael E. Rodríguez, HIA, MHP
President**

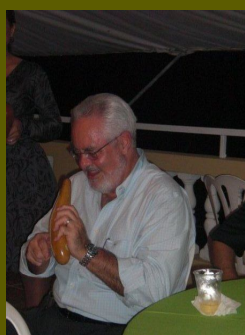


Roots and History of our Chapter - Part V

By Enrique Baquero,
Past President and Founder



1992-93 was a critical year for the Puerto Rico Chapter! The Chapter was put on probation for not complying with HFMA's standards to maintain the status as a certified Chapter. That is why in HFMA's records no name appears that year as President. I was selected to put together a plan in order to bring back the Chapter to compliance and was given full authority to implement it. I served as a trustee for the Chapter. My first step was to find out why the Chapter failed. I did an introspective analysis and talked with many of our members, specially those that had participated as officers and directors. What I found out was something that I suspected for some time. Since our beginning as a Chapter we were included in Region 5 with the Southern Chapters. Even though we had an excellent performance as has been demonstrated in these series of articles the Chapter after almost twenty years of existence was lacking a sense of partnership and participation at other levels. In the Southern Region we had difficulty integrating with them. Maybe it was cultural since there was great difficulty with the language, i.e, the southern accent v.s. the Spanish Puerto Rican. Anyway, after taking into consideration my findings I thought that a possibility to save the Chapter was to move it to the New York Region. Why New York? That was the question that I was asked when I first made the suggestion to the HFMA National Office. I told them that for us in Puerto Rico it was a natural thing to do because we always had a cultural and historic tie with New York due to the migration of Puerto Ricans and the constant travel between San Juan and New York. For example, in the Puerto Rican Day Parade in Manhattan every town and cities in Puerto Rico are represented. Another factor was politics, since we always aligned our petitions to Congress with the politicians from New York, since our representative in Congress doesn't have a vote. And in healthcare we were part of Region II in New York. I tied up all those arguments and presented our case to the National HFMA Board of Directors. Before I presented myself at the HFMA Board meeting to discuss the transfer of the Puerto Rico Chapter there are some interesting details that needs to be highlighted.



As I mentioned before, the move to New York was made possible by the intervention of two good friends of Puerto Rico: Mr William Toby, HCFA Region II Administrator at the time and Mr. Paul Cheng, President of the Metropolitan New York HFMA Chapter. I had spoken to both of them, especially with Paul Cheng who always was very supportive of the idea, about the situation of the Puerto Rico Chapter and both promised to help me in moving the Chapter to New York since it was a good idea and the Chapter had better chances as part of Region 2. All the pieces were put together. With the backing of the Federal Government and the Metropolitan New York Chapter as sponsor we were certain to succeed. On October 1993, Paul Cheng received a call from Mr. Richard Clarke requesting that as President of Metro NY's Chapter to take on the project to migrate the Puerto Rico Chapter from HFMA Region 5 to Region 2. He also received a call from Mr. Bill Toby urging him to head the project since HCFA was concerned about the viability of the Puerto Rico Chapter. (Remember that in our past articles we highlighted our close working relationship with HCFA, especially during the implementation of the Medicare Prospective Payment System). After those calls Paul Cheng had a conference call with

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Richard Clarke and Bill Toby to discuss the benefits of the move. The following points were mentioned:

- a) Puerto Rico is a member of HCFA Region II
- b) NYC has a large population of native Puerto Ricans outside of the Commonwealth and a natural bond already exists
- c) The Metropolitan NY HFMA Chapter had the necessary resources (including many bilingual members) to assist the Puerto Rico Chapter in the transition and future growth
- d) The National Board of HFMA had given tentative approval for the migration and full formal approval would be given if unanimously approved by all the Chapters of Region 2
- e) The migration needed to be completed as soon as possible, since time was critical
- f) Region 5 HFMA Chapters had already given their approval for the migration

On November 1, 1993, Paul Cheng flew to San Juan and met with me and the Officers of the Puerto Rico Chapter. He advised us on all matters pertaining to the migration and how to obtain the unanimous approval of the Region 2 Chapters. He also discussed the types of assistance that the Metro NY Chapter could provide in the future. After this meeting there were many subsequent phone conversations between Paul Cheng and me. A sequence of events were put in motion to obtain the approval of the Region 2 Chapters. On January 10, 1994, the Executive Committee of the Metro NY Chapter approved the migration project and submitted it for the approval of the Board of Directors on January 12, 1994. The project was unanimously approved providing also all the necessary support to the Puerto Rico Chapter. On February 2, 1994, I met with Paul Cheng at the Metro NY's Chapter Annual Institute and was introduced to the Chapter Officers and Directors and Committee Chairs as well as the Region 2 Chapter Presidents that were present. For the next several months Paul Cheng arranged to meet with the individual Region 2 Chapter Presidents and the Executive Committee's of each of the HFMA Region 2 Chapters to explain the migration request. After that, Paul Cheng advised Richard Clarke, Bill Toby and me that all the respective Chapter Boards of Region 2 had given unanimous approval for the migration of the Puerto Rico Chapter to Region 2. I had the honor to be invited to attend the National HFMA Board meeting where the migration request was formally approved, making it effective for the year 1994-95.

Region 2 was proud to welcome the Puerto Rico Chapter as a member of HFMA Region 2 and through these years has provided all the necessary support for the success of our Chapter. Looking in retrospect I honestly feel that our Chapter did the right thing. For me it represents a sense of great satisfaction since the Chapter once again regained its leadership role in our community, not only at the local level but also at the regional and national level. The Chapter integrated quite well by working more effectively and providing participation with local members assuming leadership positions as Regional Executives, members of various National Advisory Boards and Committees and also had the distinction of electing one of our distinguished members, CPA Fico Méndez, to the HFMA National Board, the first Puerto Rican to do so. In a certain way we can say that with this migration to Region 2 in New York our Chapter was reborn and transformed into a more dynamic organization. We owe our gratitude to Bill Toby and to Paul Cheng for this.

In our next edition we will highlight the accomplishments of our Chapter members that have distinguished themselves by serving HFMA.

HFMA's 2010 ANI: The Healthcare Finance Conference



HFMA's 2010 ANI: The Healthcare Finance Conference is the main annual HFMA event, and was offered this year in the Sands Expo Center and Venetian/Palazzo Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, from June 20-23, 2010. Excellent educational events and networking opportunities were offered to all attendees. In addition, the excellence, effort and volunteerism of all Chapter Leaders was recognized during the Awards Dinner, which was held the night of Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

Following is a list of all awards granted to the Puerto Rico Chapter for its outstanding performance during the 2009-10 year:

2009-10 Chapter Awards:

Henry Hottum Awards for Educational Performance Improvement presented to:

- Puerto Rico Chapter

John M. Stagl Silver Awards of Excellence for Education presented to:

- Puerto Rico Chapter

Excellence for Membership Growth and Retention Gold presented to:

- Puerto Rico Chapter

Multi-Chapter Yerger Awards Recipients:

- Central New York, Hudson Valley NY, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern New York, **Puerto Rico**, Rochester Regional, and Western New York Chapters for **2009 Region 2 Mini-LTC; Collaboration.**
- Central New York, Hudson Valley NY, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern New York, **Puerto Rico**, Rochester Regional, and Western New York Chapters for **2009 HFMA Region Two Fall Institute; Improvement.**

Congratulations!



Incentives for recruitment for all employers and additional requirements for Non-for Profit Hospitals with Exemption under Section 501(c)(3)

By: Axel Ramírez, CPA, MST – Tax Partner at Parissi PSC

Good news for those that are looking to hire new employees during 2010. On March 18, 2010, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act was signed into law. Among other things, it offers to certain qualified employers a payroll tax holiday for hiring unemployed workers. What this means? It means that the employer will get an exemption from the payment of its share of the social security taxes (OASDI) for that qualified employee for a limited period of time.

What is a qualified employer? A qualified employer is any employer other than the United States, any State, any local government, or any instrumentality of the preceding. Once the employer has met this requirement, then the second step is to qualify the individual. In order to be a qualified individual, the individual must:

- begins employment with a qualified employer after February 3, 2010 and before January 1, 2011;
- certifies, by signed affidavit under penalties of perjury, that they have not been employed for more than 40 hours during the 60-day period ending on the date the employment with the qualified employer begins (The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has already issued Form W-11 which could be used for this purpose);
- not be hired to replace another employee of the qualified employer, unless the other employee voluntary quit or was fired with cause; and
- not be related to the employer (with certain exceptions).

How much savings could this bring to the employer? It all depends on the amount of wages being paid to the qualified employees. But the maximum amount of exemption per employee will be \$6,621 (\$106,800 x 6.2%). We should keep in mind that the payroll tax holiday will be available for wages paid to qualified employees from March 19 through December 31, 2010.

An additional \$1,000 retention credit is available for each new qualified employee that it is retained. More information regarding this credit will be provided on the next edition HFMA Tropical News.

On a different subject, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act imposed some additional requirement (effective for years beginning after March 23, 2010) to those hospitals that have a tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. As a new requirement to maintain such exemption, the hospital must comply with the following:

1. Conduct a community health assessment at least once every three tax years and adopt an implementation strategy to meet the community needs identified through such assessment. Failure to comply with this requirement might trigger a penalty of up to \$50,000.
2. Adopt, implement and widely publicize a written financial assistance policy, including a policy to provide emergency medical treatment to individuals preventing discrimination against those eligible or cover by the financial assistance policy.
3. Each hospital facility is permitted to bill patients who qualify for assistance no more than the amount generally billed to insured patients. A hospital facility may not use gross charges when billing individuals who qualify for financial assistance.
4. Hospitals must not engage in extraordinary collection actions before making reasonable efforts to determine whether the individual is eligible for assistance under its financial assistance policy.

The IRS has already issued a request for comments regarding the application of this new requirements and the HFMA has already provided comments on its communication dated July 16, 2010. The IRS is in the process of developing guidance on the applicability of these new rules and we will keep you posted as the information becomes available. The HFMA web site provides the latest information. We invite you to take a few minutes and search the site for more information on this and other Healthcare related matters.

Upcoming Events



7 Credits



MEDICARE UPDATE 2010

PROGRAM

- **Mi Salud:**
Mr. Domingo Nevárez,
Executive Director ASES
- **Federal Healthcare Reform:**
Overview of the Legislation and Impact to PR
Elena M. Díaz, VP Marketing and Product Development
Dalila Allende, Esq., Compliance and Privacy Office Director
Triple S, Inc.
- **PR Government Role in the Implementation of the Federal Healthcare Reform:**
Honorable Dr. Lorenzo González, Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Health
- **Lunch Session:**
Keynote Speaker:
Honorable Pedro R. Pierluisi
Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner
- **Washington Update:**
Joseph Antos, Phd
Wilson H. Taylor Scholar in Healthcare and Retirement Policy
American Enterprise Institute
- **Medicare 2010 Inpatient and Outpatient Significant Changes**
Sandra V. Peña Pérez
Independent Medicare Advisor
- **Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Update**
Bill Tisdale & Tony Matos,
First Coast Service Options, Inc.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2010

Sheraton Convention Center Hotel & Casino

Registration Fees:

Early registration until August 6, 2010:

- \$150 HFMA and ACHE Members
- \$185 Non HFMA Members
- \$165 Three or more from same institution

After August 6, 2010:

- \$165 HFMA and ACHE Members
- \$215 Non HFMA Members
- \$195 Three or more from same institution

For additional information contact:

Brenda Ortiz at 787-641-9801
Rafael Rodríguez at 787-448-4140 or
CPA Teresa Figueroa at 787-378-3425

With the collaboration of the American College of Healthcare Executives





hfma region 2
healthcare financial management association



HFMA REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL INSTITUTE:
“Step Up” to the Future: Healthcare Reform Opportunities

OCTOBER 13 - 15, 2010

THE ADAMS MARK HOTEL, BUFFALO, NY

Presented by HFMA Region 2 Chapters:

CENTRAL NEW YORK • HUDSON VALLEY NY

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK • NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

PUERTO RICO • ROCHESTER REGIONAL • WESTERN NEW YORK

Who Should Attend:

**CFOs, VPs of Finance, Controllers, Department Heads, Administrators, Revenue Cycle Leaders,
Chargemaster Coordinators, Directors of Finance, Budget Analysts,
Managed Care Contractors, Reimbursement Managers, Denial Management Specialists,
Patient Financial Service Managers and Supervisors, Accountants and Compliance Staff**

Session Levels:

**Strategic General Assembly sessions and breakout sessions with operational nuts and bolts to help
solve specific problems to improve the bottom line.**

11.5 CPE Credits



HFMA Region 2 Newsletter Article
Robert A. Masi, CHFP
Regional Executive
HFMA Region 2

Region 2 is one of 11 HFMA Regions, comprising chapters large (Metropolitan New York) to small (Puerto Rico). The Region, made up of six New York chapters and Puerto Rico representing nearly 3,000 HFMA members is among the most highly regarded Regions of HFMA.

As Regional Executive it is my responsibility to work with Chapter Presidents on continued delivery of improved services to members, including education programs, as well as represent the interests of the Chapters at National HFMA through the Regional Executive Council.

Annually, the Region through collaboration of the seven chapters presents a Region 2 Fall Institute. Over the years, the Institute has grown in size and complexity, providing nationally recognized keynote speakers along with timely hands on education sessions for healthcare financial professionals. Additionally, the Institute offers access to state of the art healthcare product and services in its extraordinary Vendor Fair.

It is my pleasure to tell you that the 2010 Region 2 Fall Institute to be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo, October 13 - 15th, continues in the tradition of providing excellence in education. The Institute titled "Step UP to Healthcare Reform Opportunities" includes topics on finance, regulatory updates, receivable management, cost containment, technology, patient centered care and others relevant to the current healthcare industry as well as a vendor fair with more than thirty exhibitors.

The Region 2 Fall Institute will highlight two nationally recognized speakers:

Michael Leavitt, a former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

A powerful voice for global health diplomacy, Michael Leavitt shares his insights into how the public and private sectors should join together to solve the health care crisis. Called "a prophet in pinstripes" for his early call to reform America's health care system, Michael Leavitt is a respected, experienced and proactive voice on the issues that matter. Known for his respectful opposition of plans to increase government health care bureaucracy, Leavitt presents new solutions aimed at solving the national health care crisis that advocate fiscal responsibility and better standards for quality care.

Steve Tasker, a former Buffalo Bills football player; current color analyst and sideline reporter for CBS Television Network.

Widely considered to be the NFL's greatest special teams player of all-time, as the NFL Pro Bowl's MVP in 1993 and as the AFC's special teams player in the Pro Bowl 7 times, Steve will talk about leading by serving as well as including team members in the decision making process. His talk will include personal experiences and his own story as illustrations.

I strongly encourage you to attend this event and take advantage of this extraordinary educational opportunity. Additional details and registration information can be obtained using the following link: <http://www.hfma.org/HFMA-Region-2-Annual-Fall-Institute/>



hfma[™] Puerto Rico Chapter
healthcare financial management association

<http://www.prhfma.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-11

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Finance Director
Cooperativa De SEguros De Vida

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Become a Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP)!

Increase your value to your organization and set yourself apart from others. Demonstrate your commitment to professional development and lifelong learning. Take that extra step to validate your specialized healthcare finance knowledge and skills. Begin your journey today to earn the CHFP designation.

Completions of HFMA's certification program requirements lead to the designation Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) and Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA). Achieving these designations help prepare healthcare finance professionals for increasingly responsible positions in the healthcare industry and demonstrate dedication to professional development.

For a copy of the **HFMA Certification Brochure**, access www.hfma.org/certification/ (Updated May 09). This brochure summarizes information about program requirements, and includes application and order forms. Please note that this information is subject to change.

Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) Requirements

Requirements for HFMA certification as a Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) include:

- Two years total as a regular or advanced HFMA member (student membership does not count toward this total)
- 60 semester hours of college coursework from an accredited institution or 60 professional development contact hours (a contact hour is 50 minutes of continuous professional development activity, excluding breaks and meals)
- Successful completion of the HFMA Core Certification Exam
- Successful completion of one of the four HFMA Specialty Certification Exams (Accounting and Finance, Patient Financial Services, Financial Management of Physician Practices, or Managed Care)
- References from a current elected HFMA chapter officer and your CEO or supervisor
- Timely submission of a conforming CHFP application within 12 months of successfully completing the two required exams (note that both exams must be completed with a 24-month period)

A full explanation of these requirements is provided in the HFMA Certification brochure.

[Download the brochure.](#)

HFMA Certification Exams

REQUIREMENTS

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You must be a current HFMA member to take the certification exams. Both exams required for the CHFP designation (the Core Exam and one Specialty Exam) must be successfully completed within a 24-month period.

Once you have submitted an application for either of the exams, you must complete that exam within one year or you will forfeit the application fee. The current 2009-2010 certification exams will be available through December 31, 2010.

Candidates must be familiar with and abide by the rules set forth in [the CHFP Exam Candidate Handbook](#).

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMS

Candidates have several options to prepare for their certification exams:

- HFMA offers self-study guides that candidates can purchase to independently prepare for the certification exams. Self-study guides are available for each of the certification exams, and contain guided readings and review activities. Questions on the certification exams are based on the materials covered in these guides. [Learn more about purchasing the self-study guides](#).
- HFMA sponsors select coaching courses for certification exams at ANI: The Healthcare Finance Conference. These live group sessions can serve as an introductory preview of the materials covered in the exam or as a review of materials for candidates who have already completed the self-study guide. [Learn more about registering for the conference](#).

**SOME HFMA CHAPTERS OFFER EXAM PREPARATION ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING CHAPTER-SPONSORED COACHING COURSES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, [FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER](#).
SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM DATE AND PROCTOR**

HFMA certification exams are administered via the Internet and must be proctored by an approved HFMA certified member. It is the candidate's responsibility to identify a proctor and to set a time mutually agreeable to the candidate and proctor to take the exam. You will be asked to identify both your proctor and the exam time on your exam application. [Get more information on certification exam dates and proctors](#).

Once you have identified your proctor and exam time, [submit a completed Certification Exam Application](#) at least 10 business days before your scheduled exam time (allow 20 business days if you plan to pay by check).

Applying for CHFP Certification

After you have met the requirements for CHFP certification, and within 12 months of successfully completing your two required exams, [submit your application for CHFP certification](#) with a one-time only, \$75 processing fee (HFMA will return the fee if the application is not accepted; otherwise, the fee is non-refundable).

Applications for HFMA CHFP Certification must be notarized. Please download the applica-

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tion form, complete it, have it notarized, and submit it with payment to the address indicated at the end of the form.

HFMA will process CHFP applications within 60 to 90 days after receipt. If the application is incomplete or requires additional review, HFMA will contact the candidate.

Certificates for members achieving CHFP status are given to Chapter Presidents for presentation and are not mailed directly to the candidate. The name on the certificate is the name in the candidate's HFMA member profile. The candidate is responsible for ensuring accuracy of information in their HFMA member profile.

Once You Have Been Certified

HFMA certification is an important professional achievement. Once you have been certified, you can:

- Notify your supervisor or others of your achievement, [using these sample letters](#).
- [Request a duplicate or replacement certificate](#). There will be a \$25 charge to cover the expense of the certificate, folder, shipping and handling.
- [Earn additional specialty certifications to enhance your qualifications](#). Additional specialty exams can be taken at any time after becoming a CHFP.

[Work to achieve Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association \(FHFMA\) designation](#).

For more information about the HFMA Certification Program send an email to certification@hfma.org or call 1-800-252-4362, ask for certification. You can also contact our Puerto Rico Chapter Certification Contact:



*Francisco Méndez-González, FHFMA, CPA
Partner
Lomba, Luciano, Méndez & Dolagaray PSC
165 Ave Ponce de León Ste 201
San Juan PR 00917-1235
Phone: (787) 777-0660*

Explore and maximize the benefits of your HFMA Membership!

With an HFMA membership, you gain immediate access to the largest network of healthcare finance professionals. The resources are numerous including:

hfm Magazine

Stay informed with the latest industry news, legislative and regulatory updates, in-depth issue analyses and hands-on problem-solving techniques in [the industry's top publication](#).

Weekly News

Keep your finger on the pulse of the industry's hottest topics -- from legislation and regulation to compliance and prospective payment reform -- with HFMA's weekly e-mail newsletter.

Buyer's Resource Guide

View hundreds of companies with products and services of value to healthcare finance professionals in 40 categories to help you meet your organization's purchasing requirements. Use the *Guide* that is published each December or access the *Buyer's Resource Guide* online 24/7 at www.hfma.org/rq.

Resource Library

Find best practices and crucial information on *Financing the Future*, the **PATIENT FRIENDLY BILLING**[®] project, revenue cycle management, cost control, corporate responsibility, caring for the uninsured and other [essential healthcare topics](#) in HFMA's online Resource Library.

Local Chapter Membership

Get updates on local issues and participate in local education programs with a free membership in one of 70 local chapters.

Professional Development

Increase your knowledge base with the profession's best [learning opportunities](#) -- HFMA's Fall and Spring Seminar Series, Revenue Cycle Strategies Conference, webcasts, e-Learning, on-site programs and the Annual National Institute -- at significant member discounts.

Career Development Resources

Build your career with HFMA's career development resources: self-assessments, nationwide job postings and confidential resume referral services. When you're ready to find a new position, HFMA's online [Job Bank](#) can help you find it.

HFMA Special Interest Forums

These specialty groups create opportunities for peer-to-peer education and networking. Take your HFMA membership to the next level by joining one or more of these [peer-led professional communities](#).

HFMA Wants You to Know

Get practical, "use-it-now!" career and professional development insights from [this bi-weekly e-newsletter](#).

HFMA's Patient Friendly Billing newsletter

Learn about the latest innovative strategies for improving the patient financial experience. This [electronic, bimonthly newsletter](#) provides how-to case studies, adaptable tools, and Q&As with industry experts related to price transparency, business opportunities in consumerism, and making the revenue cycle more patient friendly.

Professional Designations

Earn a higher salary, get promoted faster and become a respected member of your organization's leadership team by receiving [HFMA's Certified Healthcare Financial Professional \(CHFP\)](#) designation or becoming a [Fellow of HFMA \(FHFMA\)](#).

Public Policy Initiatives

Help influence the work of government and industry policy makers through HFMA's [public policy initiatives](#).

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Premium Web Content

Gain exclusive access to proven solutions, including HFMA's practical checklists, best practice information, work plans, job descriptions, presentations, forms, fact sheets, work sheets, pricing strategies, research reports and Internet guides through the members-only section of HFMA's website. Gain exclusive access to proven solutions, including HFMA's practical checklists, best practice information, work plans, job descriptions, presentations, forms, fact sheets, work sheets, pricing strategies, research reports and Internet guides through the members-only section of HFMA's website.

New Members

Sally Montes
AVP
H.I.M. On Call

Carmen Yecenia Cordero
Accounting Supervisor
Southwest Health Corporation

