

making connections

Tropical News January 2009

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From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

My sincere greetings and desire for a successful year. As the new year starts, it is the time to organize, prioritize and structure our personal and professional goals in order to focus on the completion and success of them. We have been part of the history by witnessing the election of the First African-American President of the United States. We expect changes and hope for the best during the current administration for the United States and for Puerto Rico. Also, we expect and hope that the new administration helps the economic crisis the US and Puerto Rico are going through. Please, join me in praying for the elected President and for our Governor because what they have ahead is an enormous challenge in a midst of an economic crisis that

is well known by all and that has impacted every business.

As part of the current situation, we should embrace changes with a positive attitude. They are not always easy, but they can be beneficial because some of them teach us how to do things different. I urge you to challenge yourself during this New Year to be a better professional and to share the many blessings that we have with others that are less fortunate. It is in giving, instrumental in our profession, that we expose ourselves to receive invaluable returns.

I want to express my gratitude to our chapter members and to those who participate and contribute in the seminars. Without your support it would have not been a success. It takes a team! Thanks a million!

I look forward to see you in our

next meeting and encourage you to be part of the activities that our Association will organize during this year.

Sincerely,

Homar Pérez, MHA



A comment on HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter's Medicare Update Winter Session, by CPA Teresa R. Figueroa, President Elect

Last Friday, January 16, 2009, we had our third educational event, the Medicare Update – Winter Session, at the San Juan Hotel in Isla Verde, with the attendance of about 85 members of HFMA and the Healthcare Industry. The topics were presented by Mr. Cesar Hernández, from First Coast Service Options, Inc. (FCSO) in the morning session, and Mr. Stewart Presser, Vice President for Patient Financial Resources with the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) in the afternoon session. We want to thank Mrs. Alba Cosme, Mr. Julio Galíndez and Mrs. Carmen Ana Lliteras for their collaboration in gathering such excellent speakers.



Mr. Hernández, from FCSO, began his conference talking about the CMS 855A Form. He covered topics as the purpose of the form, which needs to complete the application, application and processing requirements, data analysis and tips to avoid delays and helpful resources, among others. Some attendees mentioned their problems with accreditation of their

hospitals, including communication problems. Mr. Hernández took note of issues mentioned in order to take the necessary actions.

He continued his presentation talking about CMS' use of the Medicare Cost Report Data, Change Request – 6132. It is completed once a year based on the accounting year. CMS uses this information to develop the major cost weight used in the market basket, indicated Hernández, among other uses and purposes. About MAC J9 Transition Update, he explained that the Medicare Modernization Act obliged the Secretary of Human Resources to consolidate Medicare Services by dividing the country in 15 administrative jurisdictions. On September 12, 2008 the contract was granted to FCSO, to administer Region 9, to which Puerto Rico belongs. March 1 is the cutoff date for the transition of all processes to FCSO. All Medicare services in Puerto Rico will be under the responsibility of FCSO, including telephony, correspondence, first level claims, among other. Triple S will be working for FCSO.

Mr. Hernández mentioned some changes to come: consolidation of local coverage policies, which was a requisite of the contract with CMS, and new rules for all services since March

2, 2009. The remote system will continue to be used for billing. Funds will be transferred electronically also. All providers should complete a new Electronic Funds Transfer form. Those receiving payment by check are not required to complete the form. The files will be electronically transferred to FCSO. It is not necessary to reactivate, indicated Mr. Hernández. Electronic Data Interchange is relative to programs of electronic billing. Members of Triple S and Cosvi have to migrate to FCSO. Contractor number should be changed and other certain elements of the 837. The fee schedule for Puerto Rico will not change, indicated Mr. Hernández.

Mr. Hernández concluded mentioning that other services provided by FCSO include interactive voice response unit, educative events, teleconferences, webcasts and other free on line services.



After lunch, we had Mr. Stewart Presser, from (GNYHA) to speak about Medicare Audit Recovery Contractor (RAC).

HFMA Medicare Update Winter Session

This is like an audit of CMS. The Medicare Modernization Act of 2006 requires RAC demonstration. What does RAC do? Mr. Presser explained that RAC's are tasked with: detecting improper Medicare payments, correcting improper payments, collecting overpayment from providers, and paying back underpayment to providers. There are two types: Medicare secondary payments (MSP) and claims, he mentioned. Mr. Presser was very specific and explanatory about this topic, and gave some recommendations:

- You have the ability to appeal the case? Be careful or will lose time and money.
- Be aware of the time frame.
- If you don't document, you are going to lose.

For more information on the presentations discussed you can access our web page, <http://www.prhfma.org>.

We appreciated Mr. Hernández and Mr. Presser's contribution to HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter's Educational Program, their time, effort, and above all, such excellent presentations.



A cocktail followed the afternoon session and we had a great networking time.



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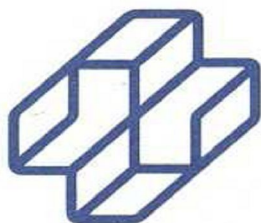


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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

María De Los A. Corcino – Senior Accountant, San Francisco Hospital
María Del M. Torres – Director, Mennonite General Hospital

Upcoming Events

HFMA PR CHAPTER Annual Assembly

May 15-17, 2009
Wyndham Resort Río Mar
Río Grande, PR

Save the Date

Chapter Christmas Party

On December 11, 2008 members of the HFMA PR Chapter got together at Café de la Princesa in Old San Juan to celebrate our Christmas party. It was a memorable occasion enjoyed by all.

During that night we presented members who earned Founders awards during 2008. The following awards were presented:

Gold Award—Francisco Méndez, FHFMA, CPA

Silver Award—Laura Solá, CPA
Rafael E. Rodríguez

Bronze award—Carmen Ana Llitas, CPA
Teresa R. Figueroa, CPA

