

# Tropical News January 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chapter Advancement Team	2
A Brief on "Risk Management at a Healthcare Facility"	
2009 Christmas Party	3
Recovery Audit Contractor	4
Roots and History of Our Chapter Part III	5-6
Become a CFHP!	7-8
New Members	9
Upcoming Events	
Board of Directors 2009-2010	10
Explore and Maximize the benefits of your HFMA Membership	11
A Final Note on HFMA Awards	12

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members of HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter:

Greetings to all the members of HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter! A New Year begins, which represents a new opportunity to fight, new efforts, attempts, and opens us to new opportunities to improve and make it different. The year term was hard for everyone, but we have a new start, full of optimism and hope.

In spite of having been a difficult year, the Puerto Rico Chapter successfully held four educational events with important assistance, namely: the ICD-10 seminar as part of our 2009 Annual Assembly, Principles and Practices Board Statement No. 15, seminar in conjunction with the Puerto Rico College of Certified Public Accountants, our main event, the Medicare Update 2009, and the seminar Risk Management at Healthcare Facility. Thank all you for your confidence and patronage to all our educational events. Thanks to this support, at this moment our chapter has exceeded the mini-

mum amount required for continuing education hours for this DCMS year, what makes us worthy of a Silver award in the category of education.

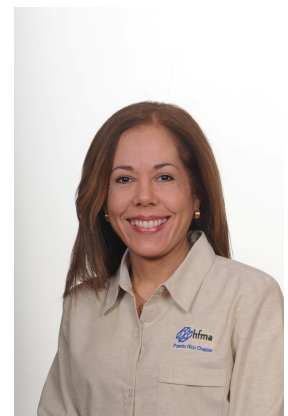
In this issue of the "Tropical Newsletter" we include all events held so far, including Chapter Advancement Team Facilitation, the Risk Management seminar, and our 2009 Christmas party. In addition, you will find information on the HFMA Certification, a summary of the benefits of membership, the continuation of the history of our chapter and a very interesting article on Recovery Audit Contractors (RAC).

Visit [www.prhfma.org](http://www.prhfma.org) to stay abreast on upcoming events. I urge you to understand and maximize the benefits of your HFMA membership. Finally, I should like to thank all of you, members of the chapter, for the trust placed in me and for contributing to our significant growth in membership. Thank you also for the outstanding results of 65% Overall High Satisfaction rate obtained in the recent HFMA

survey conducted by National. I am very proud of this chapter and the privilege of chairing it. I am counting on you for all the plans we have for this year 2010. I encourage you to come to the Board of Directors and committees. Get involved with your chapter and participate.

Kind regards,

CPA Teresa R. Figueroa  
President  
HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter





## CHAPTER ADVANCEMENT TEAM (CAT) FACILITATION

The Puerto Rico Chapter's "Chapter Advancement Team (CAT) Facilitation" was offered on Thursday, November 19, 2009, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, at Borjas Restaurant in Cataño. Our facilitator, Mr. Alex McFadden, presented all leaders that attended the event, a series of tips and great ideas intended to maintain and improve the current chapter's performance.

As part of our goal setting for this ongoing 2009-10 year, we selected to receive credit by using a CAT resource between May 1, 2009 and April 30, 2010. The CAT Facilitation offered the Puerto Rico Chapter leaders assistance in evaluating chapter programs, membership recruitment and retention strategies, goal setting, and facilitate leadership meetings, among other. After the consultation, chapter leaders feel more focused, energized and committed to making the chapter's current and following years, a success.

Thank you all!



## A BRIEF ON "RISK MANAGEMENT AT A HEALTHCARE FACILITY"

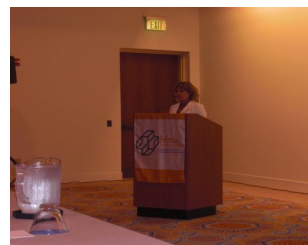


On December 4, 2009, HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter celebrated its fourth educational event of the 2009-10 DCMS year, with the seminar "Risk Management at a Healthcare Facility", at the new Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center & Casino.

This great educational event covered current risk management topics, discussed by distinguished Executives of the Healthcare Industry.

of Finance, Altura Health Management and Mrs. Milagros Ortiz, CPA, CFO Ashford Presbyterian Community Hospital. All Speakers offered excellent presentations, which are available in our web page, [www.prhfma.org](http://www.prhfma.org). We specially thank all of them! At the end of the event we enjoyed a cocktail, which resulted in an excellent networking opportunity where we had a really great time.

HFMA has gone green and, as a Puerto Rico Chapter initiative, all presentations were sent in advance to those already registered and paid. All attendees enjoyed and benefited from all the excellent presentations offered by Mr. Jorge Matta, MHSA, Executive Director, Auxilio Mutuo Hospital, Mrs. Sandra Díaz Maldonado, RN, MSN, CPUM, Director of Institutional Programs, Auxilio Mutuo Hospital, Mr. Ricardo del Campillo, CPCU, President, FULCRO Insurance, Mr. Eugenio Balzac, CIC, CRM, CPHRM, Partner, FULCRO Insurance, Mr. Pedro Meléndez, MHSA, Chief Executive Officer Mennonite Health System, Mrs. Iris Monrouzeau, Esq., Arroyo Monrouzeau Law Office, Mr. Jose R. Ortiz, Esq., José R. Ortiz Law Office, Mr. Julio Colon, CPA, Senior Vice President

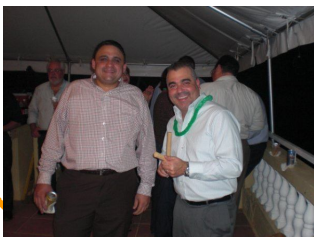


# 2009 CHRISTMAS PARTY

HFMA's Puerto Rico Chapter celebrated its 2009 Christmas Party on December 10 at Casa Diego. Thanks to all of you who were present at our celebration of 2009 Christmas! I know that all of us pass a great time, sharing, dancing and enjoying awhile.

Thanks to Laura Solá and Ariel, Quique Baquero, Julio Colon and Fei, Jackeline Rivera and husband, Aristides Castro, Luis Soto, Carlos Porrata, Eddie of Jesus (all of who came from afar), Rafael Rodríguez and wife, Alba Cosme and company, Héctor Vázquez, Ian Guillen, Axel Ramirez, Iris Otero, Lizette Rodriguez and Victor, Cecilie Hernández, Maritza Rodriguez, Agustín González and company, Domingo Nevares, Sally Montes, Ángel Vélez, José Davila, Juló Galíndez, Maribel Casillas (which was the first to arrive coming from afar), Milagros Ortiz, Doris China, Carmen Lliteras, Leanelis Buenrostro and company, FICO Méndez and Maria, Héctor Ortiz, Jesus Manuel Corazón, Heidi Serrano and Rosa and José.

Let's remember some great moments:



# Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs)

Sandra V. Peña, PT, MHSA

Director Billing Compliance and Revenue Cycle Services

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 brought the most significant impact to the Medicare program from its creation in 1965. Many changes were included in this Act, highlighting for this article, Section 306, which ordered a 3 year demonstration project using recovery audit contractors (RACs) to evaluate the Medicare claims payments. The demonstration had 2 objectives: to identify overpayments or insufficient payments, and recover the overpayments or pay the provider the amounts owed by the Program. The mission of the program is *"to reduce Medicare improper payments through efficient detection and collection of overpayments, the identification of underpayments, and the implementation of actions that will prevent future improper payments"*.

The demonstration required a 4 year review of Medicare fee-for service providers' paid claims (October 2001 to September 2005) in the states of California, Florida and New York. The final report of this demonstration project demonstrated that the Medicare program had paid a total of \$303.5 million in excess to providers. As a result, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, Section 302, required the RAC Program to be implemented permanently and ordered its nationwide extension no later than fiscal year 2010. For the implementation of this project, CMS established 4 RAC jurisdictions or regions (A, B, C and D) each one administered by a different contractor. Puerto Rico belongs to Region C; administered by [Connolly Consulting, Inc.](#) This contractor has the responsibility of auditing the CMS approved issues through automatic or complex audits. The approved issues are

published on the Connolly's webpage: [www.connollyhealthcare.com/RAC/pages/approved\\_issues.aspx](http://www.connollyhealthcare.com/RAC/pages/approved_issues.aspx).

The first approved issues published by Connolly for other states in Region C were posted in their webpage on August 2009, but it was until December 23, 2009 when the first issue applicable to Puerto Rico was published: the Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs). The MUEs were developed by CMS to establish the maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service and, as a result, for a HCPCS/CPT code.

Connolly has been updating the approved issues list to include more services, inpatient and outpatient, to be audited. Approximately 39 DRGs have been identified in the Region C approved issues list as debridement procedures, respiratory system O.R. procedures and diagnoses, major small and large bowel procedures and major chest procedures, among others. All health care providers are encouraged to continuously refer to [Connolly's webpage](#) and implement measures to retroactively review their coding; taking these steps, will prepare your facility for the RAC audits.



## Roots and History of Our Chapter—Part III

After the success of the Chapter in its first year of operations it became a significant voice in the health-care industry of Puerto Rico. In 1977 during my first term as President of the Chapter we inaugurated an office at the headquarters of the Puerto Rico Hospital Association in Villa Nevárez. In that office we established a library with all the HFMA publications and tapes with the latest information related to hospital and healthcare financial management. The Chapter became a distributor of books and educational materials which were made available to members and local institutions at discounted prices. Although highly commendable this effort never represented a profitable operation for the Chapter and was discontinued. In its early years the Chapter was very active in presenting very successful educational programs, both local and national. These programs had the purpose of improving the financial performance of our healthcare institutions as well as keeping industry leaders updated with useful and timely information. Two successful programs that have prevailed to the present are the Medicare Workshop and the Washington Policy Issues. Although with different titles their main focus still prevail today and are still very successful.

Among the most significant events in our history are the following:

1978 was a very good year for the Chapter. In that year Puerto Rico was host to the World Congress of the International Federation of Hospitals and our Chapter was part of the Organizing Committee and participated at the Congress with a well rounded program on financial management issues with top speakers from the United States and Puerto Rico. The Congress was held at the new Convention Center that was built on Ashford Avenue beside the Condado Beach Hotel, which was recently demolished. Among our guest speakers was William Toby, who at the time was recently appointed as the first Regional Administrator of the newly created Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). Those were the times of the Carter Administration in which a major reorganization was implemented in the Federal Government. And Toby was one of the keynote speakers of the Congress at a plenary session explaining those changes. Another of our distinguished guest speakers was Ron Kovener, who at the time was in charge of the HFMA's Washington office. In his book about the history of HFMA, "From Acorn to Oak", Robert Shelton recognized this event as one of the early efforts of HFMA toward internationalism. And it happened here in San Juan, Puerto Rico hosted by our Chapter! With our participation at an international event and with a very innovative program that was put together by the Chapter, in that year we were the winners of the GLD Award for Chapter excellence in the Charles F. Mehler League, which included Chapters up to 160 members in size. By the way, HFMA established the three leagues in 1976 to group Chapters by size in order to give a better chance to smaller chapters like ours. For me it was a great honor that year when I went to the ANI in Boulder, Colorado to receive that award. In our fourth year as a Chapter we were the Champions of our League, and not only that, we received other recognitions as well. As Robert Shelton said that night at the Gala Banquet: "This night you will hear great things about Puerto Rico". To impact the event I distributed flyers and bumper stickers that said "Let's meet in Puerto Rico". And to add the special touch I had carried with me a pack of straw hats (pavas) with the sign of Puerto Rico pressed in them. I recruited the college girls that were serving as hosts at the event to wear the "pavas" and distribute little bottles of rum from Puerto Rico. After the event I hosted a reception at my hotel with "piñas coladas". All these were made possible with the help of the Tourism Department of the Government of Puerto Rico. That's why since those days everytime that I attend a national HFMA event they call me Mr. Puerto Rico.

Another significant event in the history of our Chapter happened in 1981 when we invited James T. Whitman, who was appointed as HFMA's first national president, to come to Puerto Rico to address healthcare industry leaders in a joint lunch meeting with the Hospital Administrators Association of Puerto Rico (AAHPR). This event took place on September 25, 1981 at the Cerromar Beach Hotel in Dorado, P.R. where Whitman delivered a speech to a large group of representatives of the healthcare industry. Whitman's visit and his speech was well covered by the local press and our Chapter received great recogni-



tions for that. This was a very interesting time since the Reagan Administration was starting its first term and there were great changes coming that were going to have a dramatic effect in healthcare. Whitman alerted the industry as to the impact of those changes. Previous to that we celebrated our Chapter's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly jointly with the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Hospital Administrators Association on June 4-6, 1981 at the Dorado Beach Hotel in Dorado, P.R. As to the Convention, we had a great success working together with the hospital administrators and we made a great contribution to their educational program by inviting William Toby of HCFA to speak about the perspectives of the Reagan Administration's healthcare policies. We also invited CPA Beatriz Lebrón, former President of our Chapter, to speak about the new trends in healthcare financial management for the 80's. For the hospital administrators this event also had historical impact since their profession was required to start developing formal continuous education programs for certification and that was their main topic. Dr. Stuart Wesbury, President of the American College of Hospital Administrators (ACHA), addressed the issue from the practitioners perspective and Dr. Steven Sundre, Vice-President of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA), from the academic perspective.

Loking backward I think that our Chapter should take initiatives like this once again. It will be very beneficial for the industry.

In our next edition we will continue with other significant events in our history and then we will tell the story of why we moved the Chapter from Region 5 to Region 2.

Note:

AAHPR is now the College of Health Services Administrators of Puerto Rico (CASS)

ACHA is now the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE)

HCFA is now CMS

By: Enrique Baquero  
Past President and Founder

MAKING IT  
**Count**



## Thanks to our Medicare Update 2009 Sponsors



SALUD PRIMERO QUE NADA



**Auxilio Mutuo**  
Aquí se respira salud.

## 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/](http://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

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 application 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.](#)

And remember to maintain your certification [using the resources on our Certification Maintenance page.](#)

For more information about the HFMA Certification Program send an email to [certification@hfma.org](mailto: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*



# New Members

Ms. Lisette Vázquez  
Supervisor  
Hospital Menonita de Cayey

Mr. Luis Alemañy  
Senior Financial Analyst  
Baxter Sales and Distribution

Ms. Dalila Torres  
Controller  
Universal Care Corp.

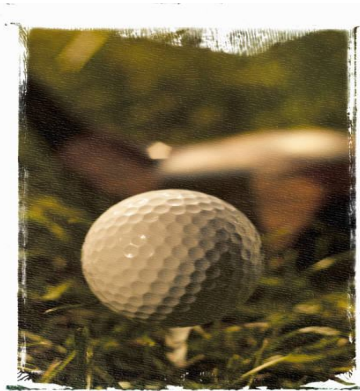
Mr. Jose J. Cora  
Executive Director  
Hospital Dr. Pila

Ms. Luz E. Montesinos Malavé  
Credit Manager  
Universal Care Corp.

Mr. Joel Teissonniere Figueroa  
Financial Analyst  
Hospital Episcopal San Lucas

Ms. Rosemary de la Cruz  
Finance Director  
Corporación del Fondo del Seguro del Estado

Ms. Haedie Ramos  
Revenue Cycle Manager  
Hospital San Cristobal



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### HFMA 2nd Golf Tournament 2010 Annual Assembly

**SAVE THE DATE:** Planning is already underway for the 2010 Region 2 Institute, to be held October 13–15, 2010. This year's conference site is the Adam's Mark Hotel in Downtown Buffalo. It promises to be an educational and fun event for all!

Presented by HFMA Region 2 Chapters:

- Central New York
- Hudson Valley NY
- Metropolitan New York
- Northeastern NY
- Puerto Rico
- Rochester Regional
- Western New York

Stay tuned for more details. Visit [www.adamsmark.com](http://www.adamsmark.com) for hotel information.





**hfma**<sup>™</sup> Puerto Rico Chapter  
healthcare financial management association

Chapter Website <http://www.prhfma.org>

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Certified Public Accountant  
Independent Professional  
6050 Carr 844 Apt 13  
San Juan PR 00926-7815  
Phone: (787) 378-3425

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Finance Director  
Cooperativa De Seguros De Vida  
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San Juan PR 00936-3428  
Phone: (787) 758-9733 x2530

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Laura Sola-Carrillo, CPA  
Estancias Reales Principe Rainiero  
#68  
Guaynabo PR 00969  
Phone: (787) 599-7559

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First Hospital Panamericano  
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437

### Director

Wanda Marrero, CPA  
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### Director

Maribel Casillas, CPA  
Finance Director  
Hospital Metropolitano Dr. Susoni  
Phone: (787) 650-1058

## 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](http://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 dis-

counts.

### **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



# A final note on HFMA Awards:

## HFMA Individual Recognition

HFMA recognizes its volunteers, who contribute their time, ideas, and energy to serve the healthcare industry, their profession, and one another.

- [The Frederick C. Morgan Individual Achievement Award](#)

The Frederick C. Morgan Individual Achievement Award is designed to recognize a single HFMA member for outstanding contributions to the Healthcare Financial Management Association as a result of substantial activity over the course of a career.

### Eligibility

Any active member of HFMA is eligible for this award except, officers and directors of HFMA and members of the Morgan Award Judging Committee during their terms of office. Nomination applications will be valid for a period of three years and may be updated when necessary during the three-year period. Past HFMA Chairmen are eligible for the award, but all activity relative to service as a national officer will be eliminated from judging consideration.

### Judging

The following criteria are considered by the judging committee in determining a winner of the award from among the nominees:

- The significance of the accomplishments and contributions of the nominee to the Healthcare Financial Management Association.



The extent of the service provided by the nominee to HFMA at the chapter, regional, and national levels, including awards earned.

### Who May Nominate

A candidate may be nominated by any member of HFMA in good standing or by an HFMA chapter through its President.

### Nomination and Submission Information

If someone in your chapter is deserving of this award and you wish to nominate the individual, please review the instructions and nomination form.

- [Instructions](#) 
- [Nomination Form](#) 

Submit completed nomination forms and supporting materials by

Friday, **February 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.** Central time to:

HFMA

Two Westbrook Corporate Center, Suite 700

Westchester, IL 60154-5700

Attn: Chapter Relations Manager

For more information about nominations, contact Jim Schmitt, Chapter Relations Manager, at (800) 252-4362, extension 363, or [jschmitt@hfma.org](mailto:jschmitt@hfma.org).



## Chapter Notes

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We want to congratulate Mr. Francisco (Fico) Mendez for the honor of being appointed at HFMA National level to the Principles and Practices Board, commencing on June 1, 2010.

The Principles & Practices (P&P) Board was established by HFMA in 1975 to re-evaluate, clarify and establish accounting principles and financial reporting practices of health services organizations. The P&P Board and its members also act as liaison with the AICPA, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The P&P Board may be assigned issues by the Board of Directors.

The P&P Board is composed of 12 appointed members who serve three year terms and meets two to three times a year. These members are recognized for their technical competence in the industry and possess outstanding personal and professional qualities. At least six members must be employees of provider organizations; six or fewer members must work in organizations that serve the industry.

Congratulations Fico!

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## Mournful Note

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Mr. Abimaél Semprit Cruz, CPA, was one of the pillars of the HFMA Puerto Rico Chapter since its foundation in 1974 and for many years he collaborated with the chapter as a partner of the firm Laventhol & Horwath. He was a great friend and an extraordinary human being. His main quality was humility. Passed away on January 25, 2010. Rest in peace!