



American Association of Medical Audit Specialists

Response to CCMA 7/2/2019 email

The AAMAS Board of Directors is aware that the Council for Certified Medical Auditors (CCMA), who administers the CMAS exam and certification, has written a lengthy email to all CMAS holders regarding AAMAS's new certification: Certified Clinical Financial Auditor (CCFA).

It is time to clarify the history and necessity to create a new certification.

1999: AAMAS set up the Certification Committee and began the CMAS Exam creation

2000: First CMAS Exam Administered to grandfathered members

2000-2014: Members of AAMAS having at least 2 years of audit experience took the exam. Pre-certified Education was offered and attended by many AAMAS members prior to their exam session.

2014: The Certification Committee, now called the "Council for Certified Medical Auditors" (CCMA) separated from the AAMAS Board at the recommendation of "NOCA", a national certifying Board for certifying agencies. The goal of achieving NOCA recognition was never achieved, in part due to the extremely high cost.

2015-2016: CCMA announced that membership to AAMAS was no longer a requirement for continued certification. Most members on the CCMA Board dropped their own membership to AAMAS.

2017 The AAMAS Board was continually asked about our members' CMAS status. Since CCMA severed the link to AAMAS, we did not have access to information regarding CMAS status for our members. People were confused about when to recertify. Additionally, we were unable to obtain information on exam content, exam updates and other administrative queries. Pre-certification education was not offered by CCMA, nor was it offered by AAMAS after this date because we did not know the exam content, nor were we the exam Administrator.

2018: AAMAS Board decided to re-create a certification exam for Certified Clinical Financial Audit and grandfather current CMAS into the certification. Current CMAS holders will be grandfathered to the new certification but not charged the \$100.00 fee for 3-year certification renewal until their CMAS expiration date. The AAMAS Board will control the exam administration, content and will maintain records to inform certified members when their certification is up for renewal. AAMAS is also offering Pre-certification education to assure a baseline of knowledge prior to taking the exam. The AAMAS Board is also planning sub-specialty certification for the future.

2019: Details of the transition to CCFA was rolled out at the 25th Annual AAMAS Conference in San Antonio. Grandfathering of CMAS members into CCFA has been ongoing since the July 1, 2019 effective date. The window to grandfather will close on December 31, 2019.

2020: First CCFA exam will be administered after the AAMAS April conference. A pre-conference exam prep session will be offered.

In summary, the AAMAS Board needs to remedy the problems created in the separation of AAMAS and CMAS. There has continued to be much confusion by our members regarding the status of their certification and their membership. We have members who believe that AAMAS and CMAS are still joined, and we have members who believe that if they pay the annual AAMAS dues, they are updating their CMAS credential. This is not true.

The AAMAS Board of Directors is confident that by having control and administration of the exam, we will be able to better serve our members. By having all the administration under the AAMAS banner we will be able to eliminate the confusion and create continuity. We will be able to attract and mentor new members which has long been a goal of our professional organization. Many professional organizations have the oversight of their certification exams such as AAMS, HCCA and AHIMA. They offer pre-certification education as well. We are concerned that our members are unknowingly using an expired CMAS credential.

CCFA will be administered by AAMAS. We will keep you posted as we gather partners to our certification. We will continually review and update the exam to insure that current industry knowledge is tested.

We are dedicated to serving current and future members of AAMAS.

All the Best,
Your AAMAS Board of Directors

Mary Jane LaBelle RN, BA, CMAS, CCFA
Katie Stanford RN, MSN, CCFA
Karen Cooper RN, BSN, CCFA
Amy Armstrong RN, BSN, CCFA, CPC
Theresa Crothers RN, CCFA
David Eklof BSN, CCFA
Barbara Huewitt RN, ICQI