



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

Summer/Fall 2019

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The Monitor

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Welcome Home!

In the twenty five years since AAMAS' creation, our national organization has moved through multiple changes in its growth. About twenty eight years ago, the TMAA (Texas Medical Auditors' Association) and the MAAC (Medical Auditors' Association of California) leadership met to establish a national network of Hospital auditors. They were joined by other state associations that sprang up: Arizona, Florida and Georgia. Besides the obvious need for education, we needed to network among ourselves: the facility and payer auditors required a common ground in an industry that

was a battleground of misunderstanding and anger.

In an effort to defuse the situation, The National Medical Cost Containment Association (NMCCA) was founded and incorporated at our conference in Georgia. Three years later, it was re-named the American Association of Medical Audit Specialists (AAMAS), and we developed the first certification in our industry: CMAS: Certified Medical Audit Specialist.

More changes came about: the clinical financial audit industry changed from only line item "Hospital Bill Audit" to more complex clinical audit reviews: DRG, APC, Contract Compliance, General Compliance, to name a few. Then irreconcilable differences sprang up between the CMAS Board and the AAMAS Board, resulting in a divorce of sorts. ([Click here](#) for further background information). AAMAS has developed a new certification: Certified Clinical Financial Auditor (CCFA). As you probably know, Grandfathering from CCMA to CCFA is opened until 12/31/2019. The first exam will be given at our annual conference in April 2020, in Louisville, KY.

The essential networking collaboration between auditors remains the skeleton of our association. We are professionals, we respect one another and understand that above all, an audit (no matter what kind) stands alone in its integrity.

If you have been away from AAMAS, confused about certification, or feeling that we do not meet your needs or that our certification holds little advantage to you in your profession, please give us another try. We welcome you and want to serve your education and networking needs. *COME HOME* to AAMAS and to our new CCFA certification. We need you and I can assure you, you will gain personally and professionally.

Respectfully,
MJ LaBelle, RN, BA, CMAS, CCFA
AAMAS President

CCFA Certification Crosses the Finish line in Louisville!



There has been so much happening with AAMAS! The Board is happy to be moving things forward.

1. CCFA CERTIFICATION EXAM IS OFF TO THE RACES IN LOUISVILLE

A draft of the new certification exam has been completed and the unveiling is just around the corner. We're all

excited for the inaugural day in April! The exam will be offered on Saturday, April 25th following the 2020 conference in Louisville, KY. A pre-certification study course will be offered on April 22 during the 2020 pre-conference for those interested in a refresher prior to the exam. For further information regarding the exam requirements and application please visit the AAMAS website certification link at www.aamas.org/ccfa-requirements

AAMAS's exam-writing process included reviewing the most recent job responsibility surveys of the AAMAS members. We have tried to provide up-to-date, relevant questions related to the work of our members as well as some questions related to the development of revenue cycle activities in health care. We will be doing a trial exam with the Board members as well as AAMAS members who are already grandfathered to CCFA. The following is an overview of the exam content:

I. Medical Audit Proficiency 20%

- Finance
- Statistics
- HIM principles
- Accounting principles
- Research methods

II. Medical Audit Professional Values 5%

- Ethics
- Standards of conduct
- Policies
- Confidentiality

III. Medical Audit Environment 15%

- National Healthcare Audit Guidelines
- Federal and State laws
- NCD National Coverage Determination
- HIPPA
- Medicare, Medicaid and Insurance reimbursement methodologies
- OIG and JCAHO

IV. Medical Audit Process and Procedure 60%

- Coding and billing validation and accuracy ICD-10, CPT, HCPCS, E&M
- Payment methodologies
- Revenue code and charges validation
- UB04-CMS 1450 and CMS 1500
- Utilization review and denials
- Contracting
- Electronic health records, databases and spreadsheets

2. GRANDFATHERING OF CMAS TO CCFA IS IN THE HOME STRETCH!

Sixty members of AAMAS have grandfathered from CMAS to CCFA! Most members were current with CMAS and AAMAS, so paid no fee for grandfathering. The application is located on the Website, aamas.org. Click on the blue 'list' icon upper right, then Education/Certification, About CCFA, then Grandfather to CCFA. You can fill out the application, scan it and email to certification@aamas.org OR fill it in on the site, save the application and email to certification@aamas.org. There are also instructions on the form for mailing the application.

If you plan to grandfather, PLEASE do it NOW! The holidays are coming and you will be even busier than you are now. Remember the deadline is December 31, 2019. If you want to use both CMAS and CCFA until your CMAS expires, that is fine. If you want to keep both, that is fine too. But if you don't grandfather by January 1, you will need to take the exam again (YIKES!) if you decide you want the CCFA credential.

3. CCFA CEUs ARE NOW IN THE RUNNING!

The CCFA CEU committee has received and approved the first CEU request, from Texas Medical Audit Association. The application for CEUs for educational offerings is located on the aamas.org website under Education/Certification. The application process and the CEUs are free to affiliated organizations. These applications can be submitted to the Committee at certification@aamas.org.

4. CCFA FREE WEBINARS ARE WINNING HANDS DOWN.

CCFA has offered two (2) free Webinars with CEUs on the AAMAS website under the Education/Certification tab. The current webinar is approved for four (4) CEUs. We plan to offer at least one webinar or video per quarter for AAMAS members. If you have a Webinar presented by you or your company (must have approval from employer to post it) and would like to share it, please email us at certification.aamas.org.

Katie Stanford and Karen Cooper
Certification Committee

Off to the Races



AAMAS's 2020 Conference, to be held April 22-25 at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, KY, **will be your Conference Trifecta!** Saddle up and join AAMAS for **A Sure Bet: Clinical, Compliance, Coding.** The venue looks to be excellent, and the Louisville area offers a lot of fun activities.

Our conference attendance has steadily increased over the past few years, and we are building upon the enthusiasm exhibited by our members. We have received many excellent suggestions for topics from the 2019 evaluations, and are in the process of finding speakers. The members of AAMAS represent many Audit Companies and Hospital Systems. If you or anyone in your organization would be willing to address topics related to medical audit, compliance, coding, appeals, DRG, or any other financial or clinical issue, please send me the contact information (crothers@charter.net).

Information regarding Conference Registration and Exhibiting/Sponsorship opportunities will soon be available on the AAMAS website. In the interim, save April 22-25, 2020, on your calendars!

I am looking forward to hearing from you, and seeing you in Louisville.

Theresa Crothers
Program Chair

Membership Report

Greetings AAMAS Members! As Membership Chair, I'm pleased to share some interesting facts regarding the demographics of our members. We have a total of 206 current members, including those just joining.

We have 8 states with just one member (CT, NC, NH, NM, NV, OK, WI, N/A) We have 9 states with just 2 members (AZ, HI, LA, MA, ND, NJ, NY, PA, NC). Three states have just 3 members (MD, MO, WA). Next we have two states with 4 members (CO, NE). We also have 4 states with 6 paid members (KY, OR, TN, VA). States with 8 paid members are (AL, MI). One state with 9 paid members is Illinois. Georgia has 12 paid members. Next is Texas with 17 paid members. Ohio has 19 paid members and Florida has 22 paid members. The state with the greatest number is my state, California with a total of 44 paid members.

It would be a wonderful thing for you to recruit members in your own state. We also have some states not represented at all. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get all 50 states to have at least one member of AAMAS?

The organization is growing slowly as some former members leave and new ones join. The numbers are reflecting little growth. The organization is working towards many improvements, some of which you've already seen. AAMAS offers value to our profession and most recently offering certificates marking your skill set as an auditor.

David Eklof, Chair
Membership Committee

Mentors Join the Team!



I'm please to introduce to you one of our newest people to join the Board of Directors. Pat is participating in our mentoring program. This program is designed to help shape future officers for the organization to help secure our future. Please read her autobiography. Welcome Pat!

Hi, I'm Pat Hodney-Gould. I must not have heard correctly when Mary Jane asked me to be part of the Board when I replied "yes"! That's OK. It will help me grow. A little about me. I have been an RN for 39 years. My background is critical care. I still miss the patient care and learning from that environment. I am currently a Senior Manager for Clinical Review with Kaiser Permanente. Prior to that I was a Manager with CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield in their Medical Review and UM Programs. I have done many things in my administrative life from Medical Underwriting, UM, Appeals, Audits, Post Service Pre-pay reviews, and many things in between. I have had the privilege of building several programs with teams of physicians and nurses.

Personal: I am widowed, live in Vancouver, WA, and enjoy gardening. I have two grown sons and one step daughter. I have many nieces and nephews whom I adore and many adopted sons and daughters through my kids. I travel back east at least once a year to be with my brother and his family, but love to travel just about anywhere.

David Eklof, Chair
Nominations Committee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Jane LaBelle, *President*
Katie Stanford, *President Elect*
Karen Cooper, *Vice President*
Amy Armstrong, *Secretary/Treasurer*

David Eklof, *Nomination Chair*
Theresa Crothers, *Program Chair*
Barbara Huewitt, *Social Media*
Janet Wilhelms, *Executive Director*

YOUR ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT TEAM

Janet Wilhelms

Executive Director
ext. 103

Courtney Harris

Customer Care &
Association Specialist
ext. 125

Liz Kutz

Chief Financial Officer &
Membership Manager at
Association Executives Group
ext. 102

Roy Smith

Vice President of IT at
Association Executives Group

The opinions expressed in The Monitor are those of the authors or persons quoted.
They do not necessarily reflect the views of the AAMAS Board of Directors.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

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www.aamas.org



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS Membership Application

Please Print Clearly:

Name: Dr./ Mrs. / Mr. / Ms. _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Credentials: _____

Affiliation: _____

Preferred mailing address: Home Business

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Home phone number: _____ Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fax number: _____ E-mail: _____

Referred by: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE: Each membership is good for one full-year.

Individual Membership \$150.00 \$_____ Membership Total

Retired Membership \$100.00 \$_____ Membership Total

Corporate Membership If three or more employees from the same organization join/renew, they each receive the discounted rate noted below. Please provide names and contact information on the back of this form.

Total Number of Members: _____ X \$125.00 = \$_____ Membership Total

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please list other professional organizations to which you belong: _____

EMPLOYMENT SETTING

- Hospital
- Vendor
- Insurance Company/Other Payer
- Other

JOB CLASSIFICATION

- Auditor
- UR/QA
- Case Manager
- Other

BIRTH YEAR

- Prior to 1925
- 1925-1945
- 1946-1964
- 1965-1979
- 1980-2000
- After 2000

Your name, address, and email address will automatically appear in our online membership directory available only to members. Please check if you would like your name **withheld** from the online membership directory:

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Check/Money Order Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ CVV Code: _____

Signature: _____

Return this form with your payment. Checks or money orders (in U.S. dollars) payable to AAMAS.

7044 S 13th St.

Oak Creek, WI 53154, USA Tel: 414-908-4941

Credit Card Payments can be faxed to AAMAS at **414-768-8001**.

TOTAL DUE: _____

Please FAX or MAIL your application form to the address at left. Or, you may join online at www.aamas.org.