



Off The Record

The Official Newsletter of the
Western Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association

Fall 2009

In This Issue

- President's Message
- RAC Readiness
- Education Update

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President's Message

Peri L. Long, RHIA -President, WPHIMA

Autumn officially begins later this month. Where did the summer months go? I'm sure many are wondering if we really experienced it at all. How about that weather and who has a tomato crop this year? Regardless of our wish to remain in the fun and sun, the inevitable is that time marches on, the weather will turn even cooler, and schools are back in session. In focusing on education the WPHIMA co-chairs of this committee, with the support of a number of board members, have really worked hard to organize a number of educational opportunities for this fall. WPHIMA's strategic educational goal this year is to serve the membership by making quality, cost effective educational offerings available regularly and in a variety of locations. Additionally, WPHIMA would like to reach out to, partner with or assist other organizations when considering these opportunities.

To further promote the HIM profession, the board has agreed to make contact with various guidance counselors and associations in the local area.

Well, I hope everyone enjoys the back to school season. Relax; there are still plenty of shopping and networking days before Christmas. I hope we see each other at the upcoming offerings and thank you for your support of WPHIMA.

RAC READINESS

Christel Chuderewicz, RHIT/CCS

Publications Committee, Chair

After all the waiting and anticipation, the RAC Audits have arrived, and Diversified Collection Services will be auditing for the state of Pennsylvania. The audits are scheduled to be rolled out in three separate phases. The initial phase will include the review of "automated claims". These reviews will focus directly on charges posted to billing and copies of the medical record are not required. This phase is scheduled to begin in August/September 2009. The second phase will include "complex reviews". These are scheduled for October and will focus on the coding aspect of the record. These requests will require a copy of the medical record. The third phase, also considered "complex reviews", is scheduled for February 2010, and will focus on medical necessity.

Apple Crunch

Ingredients:

3lbs. of apples
1 cup of white sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup melted butter
2 cups flour

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Mix sliced apples, sugar and cinnamon together and place in a 9x13 greased baking dish.

Mix brown sugar, butter and flour until crumbly. Place over apples. Bake for 30 minutes or until apples are soft.

As we all run for cover, REMEMBER, we have been preparing for over a year now and are probably better off than we think. Many who have experienced the effects of the RACs suggest the following:

Develop a RAC Committee within your organization - members should include the Chief Financial Officer, HIM Director, Case Management, Compliance Officer, Legal Counsel, and Patient Billing Services.

Purchase a RAC Tracking Tool - This is “key” to the organization of tracking all denials and appeal levels. There are many systems available and worth the investment. According to the hospitals in the initial roll out states, the home grown systems and spread sheets cannot keep up with the activity.

Contact your designated RAC auditor. DO NOT WAIT FOR THEM TO CONTACT YOU! Request a meeting to discuss the expectations and requirements for all audits.

The following is an example of the areas focused on in Region C for the automated reviews. Although these are specific to that area, it should provide you with a heads up , as they could focus on these same issues in our region:

*Blood Transfusions - 36430, 36450, 36455

*Untimed Codes

*IV Hydration Therapy - 90760 without modifier 59

*Bronchoscopy Services - 31625, 31628, 31629

*Once-in-a-life time procedures

*Pediatric Codes exceeding age parameters

*J2505: Injection, Pegfilgrastim

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Education Update

Submitted by Michele Maier, MHMS, RHIA, CCS
Education Committee Co-Chair

There's lots of education to keep WPHIMA Members on top of what is going on in our field. Remember, WPHIMA members get discounts on educational sessions! It pays to join. Go to www.wphima.org today!



WPHIMA Membership Statistics

As of 9/3/09

ACTIVE MEMBERS - 162

ASSOCIATE - 4

STUDENTS - 5

TOTAL MEMBERS - 171



Upcoming WPHIMA Educational Offerings:

- ✓ Friday, September 18, 2009
ICD-9 October 2009 Updates & Cardiovascular and Valve Replacement Procedure Coding
Forbes Regional Hospital

Please click this link to obtain further information and registration: www.wphima.org to register via PayPal

Friday, October 23, 2009
RACs Update/RACs Toolkit
Washington Hospital

Friday, December 11, 2009
CPT Coding Updates/Outpatient Coding
St. Clair Hospital

Watch your email and the WPHIMA website for more information coming soon.

Additional Educational Opportunities:

Wednesday, November 4, 2009
3rd Annual Northeast US Healthcare Trade Faire & Regional Conference - Sponsored by WPHIMSS
Four points Sheraton Pittsburgh North

WPHIMA & PHIMA will be once again partnering with the 3rd Annual Northeast US Healthcare Trade Faire & Regional Conference.

We have arranged with the event organizers for WPHIMA members who are staff persons at a hospital, medical clinic, or health system organization (like a BCBS, Highmark, or a Kaiser) who pre-register in advance to attend this month online to get complimentary event attendance and complimentary parking. This offer includes buffet breakfast and lunch, and beverages at the other scheduled breaks. The staff persons should pre-register online at <https://www.healthcaretradefaire.com/Pittsburgh/registration/guest.html>.

For WHPHIMA members who wish to attend for the day who work at a consulting company, a university, a college, or a healthcare solution provider company, you are also invited. The cost per person is \$175.00 (1st person per company), \$150.00 (2nd person per company), \$125.00 (for 3rd and beyond). A buffet break and lunch are included. These staff persons should pre-register on line before the final week of October using this link:

<http://healthcaretradedefaire.com/Pittsburgh/registration/>.

For additional Information: <http://healthcaretradedefaire.com/Pittsburgh/09/>

PHIMA sponsors CCS Preparation Readiness Workshops:

October 17, 2009 - Lancaster PA

November 7, 2009 - Monroeville, PA

For more information visit www.phima.org