

hfma™ northwest ohio chapter
healthcare financial management association

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President's Message

I Made a Mistake.

When did it become un-American to admit one has made a mistake? We are constantly bombarded with politicians, social leaders, business executives, and common everyday criminals who openly profess they have done nothing wrong even when the evidence presented against them is insurmountable. The concept of "innocent until proven guilty in a court of law" has evolved to "never admit to making a mistake". Unfortunately this same type of attitude has become prevalent in many of our everyday lives and has spilled over to the workplace.

I am sure that many of you have interactions with co-workers who seemingly are not capable of making a mistake. Every time an error is uncovered, it is because of "I must have misunderstood the information provided" or "I didn't forget to add that, I thought you told me not to add it." Even when faced with inappropriate behavior, there is always an out.

"I wasn't staying late and surfing the net for pornographic sites, it must have been the night custodian" or "I was just borrowing and did not have a chance to return it yet" or "I thought if I had one of these at home, I could get more work done".

The motivation for this type of behavior is interesting. I think that many feel as though admitting to a mistake will jeopardize their standing in the company or department and will have an impact on their ability to get promoted. If you have these feelings, you only need to remember these three simple rules.

Rule Number 1. Make sure you have some type of seemingly reliable intelligence that supports your decision even if it later turns out to be bogus. You can always point to this as the basis for your decision. This can be readily purchased.

Rule Number 2. Make sure you have another individual or individuals that support your position. That way you can always say that you were not alone in your decision even if the support was the result of Group Think mentality.

Rule Number 3. Make it someone else's decision. If you can find someone who knowingly or unwittingly is willing to make the decision, this is perfect. You can never be blamed.

Obviously, these rules are me being me. A very wise man once told me "Son, never be afraid of making a mistake for only he who does nothing makes no mistakes." In conclusion, I would encourage everyone to have "Courage in Leadership" and take responsibility for your decisions, learn from your mistakes and take honor in doing so.

Sincerely,

Kim McClure





Certification Perspective

Have you ever wondered what is involved in the HFMA certification process or if it is something that you should pursue? Until about 18 months ago, it had never entered my mind. In fact, although I had been an HFMA member for over 10 years, I knew very little about this process. Through the articles in the newsletter and discussions at the HFMA meetings, I began to hear more about this “elusive” certification process. I was at a point in my career where I felt that I needed to enhance my credentials and this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

As I began looking into the process, I found out that I could obtain CPE credit for completing the exam study guides. That was a big bonus, as every CPA is always looking for additional CPE credits. What was even better was that our HFMA Chapter had already purchased the study guides, so the materials and resulting CPE didn't cost me a thing.

Now all I had to do was find the time to review the materials. I studied for the Core Exam first and found that I was already familiar with a lot of the material, so most of the sections didn't take me long to review. I then opted for the Patient Financial Services Specialty Exam, as that most closely related to my job. I figured I could pass that one with the least amount of studying (I hoped that was true or my boss might have been a little concerned). Although it was a challenge at times to find an extra hour in the day after just having twins and then returning to work, it was possible as long as I made it a priority; even two babies do both go to bed eventually! Now that I have completed the process, it was well worth it and I would encourage anyone to explore this opportunity.

Hayley Studer, CPA, CHFP

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If you have any questions or suggestions for the Corporate Sponsorship program or would like to sit on the committee, please contact one of the following committee members. Char Masters, Chris Rizzo, Larry Kuk, Vince Sheahan, Doug Headman or Sandy Annesser.



HFMA Chapter Leadership 2006-2007

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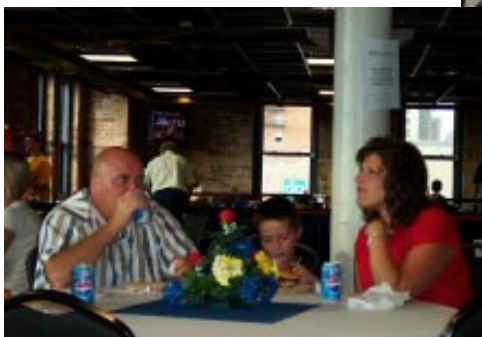
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Look at the fun in the Roost!

56 NWO hfma members and family enjoyed a picnic dinner and then watched the Toledo Mud Hens beat the Louisville Bats 4 – 3 on an 11th inning home run by Mud Hen Ryan Ludwick, Friday, August 4, 2006 at Fifth Third Field. Some chapter members were even spotted doing the chicken dance in the stands! After the game, the group enjoyed a wonderful fireworks display from our seats in the “Roost”. Plans are under way for the 2007 annual Mud Hens outing.





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HFMA Certification Requirements

(updated October 2006)

- Two years total as a regular HFMA member
- Two years of professional experience in the healthcare finance industry
- 60 semester hours of college coursework from accredited institution or 60 professional development contact hours
- Successful completion of the HFMA Core certification exam*
- Successful completion of one HFMA specialty certification exam*
- References from a current elected chapter officer and your CEO or supervisor
- Submit conforming application with one-time fee within 24 months of successfully completing the first exam

**Note: Exams may be taken at any time after you become an HFMA member. Specialty exams include Accounting and Finance, Financial Management of Physician Practices, Managed Care, and Patient Financial Services*



Become a Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP)

Maintain status every 3 years by earning 90 professional development contact hours and retaining HFMA membership.



- Five years total as a regular or advanced HFMA member
- Bachelor degree or 120 semester hours from an accredited college or university
- Reference from an HFMA Fellow or current elected chapter officer
- Volunteer activity in healthcare finance within 3 years prior to applying for FHFMA, including one of following:
 - Earn the Follmer Bronze Award
 - Volunteer in the chapter and earn two Founders points (under current system) for two consecutive years
 - Volunteer service for two years in a healthcare industry organization within the past three years
- Submit conforming application with one-time fee



Become a Fellow of HFMA (FHFMA)

Maintain status every 3 years by earning 90 professional development contact hours and retaining HFMA membership.

For more information about HFMA's certification program, visit the HFMA website at hfma.org/certification



NWO Chapter Goes Back to Basics with “Compliance 101”

Do you have the proper safeguards in place to protect “whistleblowers” in your hospital?

Are you sure you have waited the appropriate or required time before claiming an account as Medicare Bad Debt?

How adequate is your support for your wages and hours?

If any of these questions piqued your interest or even caused you to pause and say, “hmmm”, then the place to be was The Toledo Botanical Gardens on October 19, 2006. The Northwest Ohio Chapter of HFMA held it’s second educational session on this date and discussed various subjects under the topic “Compliance 101”. Associates from the law firm of Hall, Render, Killian, Heath and Lyman, P.C. were on hand to make presentations covering a wide array of subjects. Being presenters for our chapter in previous years for meetings such as “The False Claims Mock Trial”, we were once again privileged to have them come and share their expertise with us.

Elizabeth Callahan-Morris started the morning off with a discussion on Medicare and Medicaid Compliance. Her presentation covered many of the federal regulations and laws in place (i.e. – Fraud and Abuse laws, Anti-kickback Statute, Stark Law, etc.). She also stressed the importance of having and implementing a strong Corporate Compliance Program and gave seven keys to doing this successfully and effectively. Several “Hot Topics” that currently are being discussed are OIG 2007 Workplan, Combining HIPAA and Corporate Compliance, Employee Surveys and Board Education.

Keith Barber picked up the baton and discussed in great detail the False Claims Act and Medicare Overpayments. He shared through several case studies the potential risks that exist for providers. He emphasized the importance of how having a solid compliance program aids in the protection against potential lawsuits, thus further safeguarding the provider. One specific item of note was that there are “no set rules for how and when to disclose”, therefore the role of the compliance officer and legal counsel becomes extremely vital in this decision making process.

After lunch the afternoon was comprised of 3 presentations: Wage and Hour Compliance, by Gregory Moore; Medicare Bad Debt Compliance, by Joan Lowes; and Medicare Wage Index, by Neal Cooper. Each of these areas have become increasingly important over the past few years due to very large lawsuits and settlements and the exposure that exists for governmental agencies and providers. The “take away” for each participant from these afternoon sessions was to 1) review existing policies in each of these areas, 2) review the processes for compiling this data, and 3) the audits ensure adherence and proper implementation of the policies.

Overall the session was excellent and very informative for each participant. For more information on this session or to become a member of the Program Committee and help us bring even more interesting and informative topics to the membership, contact John C. Jones at 419-291-0252.

Editorial Policy for THE EXAMINER

THE EXAMINER is published four times per year.

Our objective is to provide members with information regarding chapter activities as well as ideas to help individuals in the performance of their job duties.

Your chapter leadership strongly encourages the submission of material for publication. Articles should be typewritten. Letters should be legible and must be signed. The editor reserves the right to edit material and accept or reject contributions whether solicited or not.

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Opinions expressed in articles or features are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, Northwest Ohio Chapter, or the editor.



Membership News

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the Northwest Ohio Chapter of HFMA:

Jason A. Evans
Barbara R. Dull (*sponsored by Debbie L. Lewis*)
Chad D. Tinkel (*sponsored by LeRoy Feather*)
Mickey Suggs (*sponsored by Stacy Sabbagh*)
Aliza Arjoyan
Bridget Hallam

Details are available in the chapter membership directory that was recently distributed. Please look for these members at chapter programs and events and introduce yourselves. Also, a big thanks to the 10 members who reinstated their memberships. Our total membership now stands at 141.

Did You Know...

Chapter membership profile data as of June 1, 2006:

Average years in HFMA 11	
Average years in Healthcare	20
Average age	47
Females	42%
Males	48.1% (<i>apparently not everyone answered the gender question!</i>)
CHFP	1
FHFMA	14
CPA	30

Membership Directory

By now you should have received an e-mail that included The Northwest Ohio Chapter of HFMA current member directory and related Chapter information. Member information is also available through the chapter website, www.nwohiohfma.org. Click on the link for "Membership", and then click on "Click Here for Membership Directory". This will link you to the national HFMA website log in page. Once you log in, a member directory search format appears on the screen. Use this search tool to access member directory information.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the member directory, please contact Chris Rizzo at Christina_Rizzo@mhsnr.org. If you have any questions, or need membership application or member-get-a-member forms, you may find them at the registration table during chapter programs, or contact one of the membership committee members:

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