



THE LIGHTHOUSE

APRIL 2003

The official publication of the Maine Association Medical Staff Services, published by and for the membership of MeAMSS



President's Message

"Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you you're wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to the end, requires some of the same courage which a soldier needs."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson -

Happy Spring! At least that is what the calendar says. This month, I would like to bring you up-to-date on happenings at the Regional/National level.

The Presidents and President-elects for the Northeast Region participated in a conference call with Region Rep Sally Pelletier, CMSC, CPCS. Below is an excerpt from the minutes of the most recent conference call:

1. Lowering the cost of the national conference. The Conference Council has reviewed this and found that the CEUs received by attending the conference were equal in value to the cost. NAMSS will continue to monitor this.
2. It was felt that there needed to be more direct communication from NAMSS with a suggestion to create membership email groups for each state. The

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concern was that this would result an overwhelming amount of email. Participants in the call agreed that the current process of the Regional Representative disseminating the information to State Presidents seems to be working well. However, since improved communication is always a goal, suggestions are always welcomed.

3. State Presidents requested stability in the NAMSS office and open communication.
4. Members were reminded to search the Synergy archives and submit topics.
5. The CAQH application was discussed. Although some felt more comfortable after the presentation from Sorin Davis, a few issues still need to be addressed.
6. Lastly, we were asked if any states were giving rewards to members who go above and beyond, to which no one participating in the call could say yes.

I am proud to report that MeAMSS is once again in the forefront of our region by presenting the Golden Star Award annually to one of our members who exhibits outstanding service to the organization and/or demonstrates excellence in the field of medical staff services.

I forwarded our Golden Star Award information to the NE Region Rep as well as NHAMSS president.

On the National level:

1. Elections will be held this fall. The candidates are:
 - a. **President-elect:**
Leslie Caye, CMSC, CT Children's Medical Center, Hartford, CT, and Donna Goesten Kors, CMSC, Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest St., Louis, MO;
 - b. **Treasurer:**
Sherri Crockett, CMSC, Children's Hospital, and Janet O'Hair, CMSC, CPCS, Noblesville, IN.

Ballots will be mailed to all NAMSS members in mid-July.

2. The Certification Board, Education Council, and Member/Communication Council are partnering on a job task analysis project in an effort to ensure

the certification examination and education programs are appropriate to reflect current knowledge essential to the profession. Ray Talke from Minds in Action will facilitate the workshop. Our region representatives are Kay Brown of Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington VT and Karen Freeman of Howard University Hospital, Washington DC.

3. The 2002 NAMSS Annual Report is available on the website.
4. The Uniform Credentialing Task Force has not yet been appointed by the NAMSS president. The consensus is to avoid the term "application" and simply focus on establishing core elements. The NAMSS Board of Directors will provide feedback to the NAMSS president regarding structure of committee, composition, and whether they feel outcome would be a complete set of data elements to meet all needs – NCQA, CMS, Hospitals, JCAHO.

That's all for this month. As always, take care, stay well, and please feel free to contact me at any time.

Kim Pelletier, CMSC
President, MeAMSS



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Medical Staff Coordinator. Position reports to executive director of 45 bed acute care hospital on the coast of Maine. Non-departmentalized medical staff consists of 45 Active Staff, 40 Courtesy Staff and 45 Allied Health Professionals.

For more information contact. Karen Littlefield, Human Resources Manager, Waldo County General Hospital, P.O. Box 287, Belfast, ME 04915

Tel: 207-338-9345

Fax: 207-338-8600



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Uniform Applications Stark Question

At the last MeAMSS meeting at Acadia on March 14, 2003, I shared my concern with the group regarding the question on the Maine uniform applications relating to Stark I and II about financial ownership in a healthcare entity. The question reads: "Do you have financial relationship (ownership or compensation arrangement) in a hospital, clinical lab, home health agency, nursing home, DME supplier, pharmacy, radiology, emergency department or any other medically related organization?" My concern was that once they answered that question, the hospital knew and needed to make sure there was no self-referral. I suggested that the information be passed on to the corporate compliance officer. This caused a stir in some organizations and they sought the advice of the Maine Hospital Association. After much research, the consulting attorneys now agree that the application is not the best place to obtain the information and recommend that, on the next revision, the question be deleted. In the interim, I would suggest that we treat the question as optional. If the provider answers, fine; if not, fine. You might also state the question is optional in your personalized instructions.

Submitted by Cheryl Schilke, RN, CMSC



UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS DATES

**Remember to invite another colleague
from your organization!**

June 27, 2003

Waldo County General Hospital, Belfast

September 12, 2003

Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft

December 12, 2003

Maine General, Waterville

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

(Answers in “blue” and underscored” –
How did you do?)

Medical Terminology

Match the suffix with its meaning:

1. **algia**
 - enlargement
 - softening
 - henia
 - pain
2. **cele**
 - hernia
 - cell
 - pain
 - inflammation
3. **malacia**
 - blood condition
 - softening
 - incision
 - enzyme
4. **emesis**
 - process
 - disease
 - vomiting
 - secretion
5. **phagia**
 - swallowing
 - tear
 - deficiency
 - hardening
6. **plasia**
 - tumor mass
 - drooping prolapse
 - flow/discharge
 - development, formation
7. **stalsis**
 - inflammation
 - contraction
 - opening
 - stopping
8. **stenosis**
 - stricture
 - opening
 - suture
 - flow, discharge
9. **megaly**
 - tumor mass
 - softening
 - enlargement
 - dilation

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10. sclerosis

- treatment
- hardening
- softening
- formation

Law Review

Name the case:

1. Doctrine of Ostensible Agency HMO found to be liable in patient’s death. Chest perforation during breast biopsy. Chest pain/MI six weeks later.
 - Elam v. College Park Hospital
 - Gonzales v. Nork and Mercy Hospital
 - Boyd v. Albert Einstein
 - Patrick v. Burget
2. Doctrine of Corporate Negligence – Medical Records had information on many lawsuits against a podiatrist.
 - Elam v. College Park Hospital
 - Gonzales v. Nork and Mercy Hospital
 - Boyd v. Albert Einstein
 - Patrick v. Burget
3. Hospitals owe patients a duty to care – laminectomy negligently performed. MD had history of unnecessary or negligent surgeries.
 - Elam v. College Park Hospital
 - Gonzales v. Nork and Mercy Hospital
 - Boyd v. Albert Einstein
 - Patrick v. Burget



LAW REVIEW

(New)

1. Duty to Credential: Application denied when physician refused to authorize prior hospital to release information:
 - Wetman v. Little Company of Mary Hospital – California, 1995
 - Mathews v. Lancaster General Hospital – Tennessee, 1996
 - Mahmoodian v. United Hospital Center – West Virginia 1994
 - Darling v. Charleston Memorial Community Hospital – Illinois 1965

2. End of the Doctrine of Charitable Immunity – Patient lost leg due to improper casting.
 - Wetman v. Little Company of Mary Hospital – California 1995
 - Mathews v. Lancaster General Hospital – Tennessee 1996
 - Mahmoodian v. United Hospital Center – West Virginia 1994
 - Darling v. Charleston Memorial Community Hospital – Illinois 1965

3. HCQIA – Burden on the physician to prove bad faith pee review:
 - Wetman v. Little Company of Mary Hospital – California 1995
 - Mathews v. Lancaster General Hospital – Tennessee 1996
 - Mahmoodian v. United Hospital Center – West Virginia 1994
 - Darling v. Charleston Memorial Community Hospital – Illinois 1965

(Answers next month)



The MEAMSS Board has approved including job postings on our website.

The page on the Website will be called "**Employment Opportunities**". There will be no fee to post job opportunities for MeAMSS members, and the standard advertising fee will be applied for non-members.

Also, Ron Lambert, CPCS, Membership Chair, has agreed to be the contact person for any questions posted to the website. Ron will disseminate the questions to the membership prior to posting the answer on the site.

Do you have other suggestions for the website? If so, please contact Allison Meyer, CPCS, Media Chair.

Haven't visited the site yet? The address is: meamss.org.

Have an article to submit to *The Lighthouse*?
Please send it to: cedwards@mainehospital.org

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HELPFUL HINTS

1. When you query the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine for current license status, you can also use this verification as primary source of the physician's education since the Board obtains primary verification of the physician's education. (Discussed by Mary Dufort, BSN, DHS, at the September 2002 educational meeting).

2. Are your physicians experiencing delays in their license renewals? Many times the delays exist because the physician did not complete the CME log clearly. Here are some of the frequent problems: Physician does not include copies of quiz results from home study courses and/or printout from the physician's national group website (e.g. American Academy of Family Practice) or abbreviations are used. The BOLIM reviews the information provided against a list of approved CME sponsors.

Given the budget shortfalls at the State level, perhaps we can do our part in encouraging our physicians to submit complete and legible CME logs to avoid delays in license renewals.



The Massachusetts Association of Medical staff Services is holding its Annual Conference Thursday and Friday, June 5-6, 2003 at the SeaCrest Resort and Conference Center, North Falmouth, MA.

Contact Person for more information:
 Mary D. Jones, CMSC @ (508) 961-5006

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