

# MISSISSIPPI

## Headlines

### HFMA President's Message



News from the Fall Presidents' Meeting. Greetings! One of the benefits of becoming more involved in your local HFMA chapter and in leadership of that

chapter is the yearly Fall President's meeting. This year, David Butler (current President Elect), David Williams (current Regional Executive-Elect) and I had the opportunity to go to Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The weather was absolutely beautiful. We even saw snow on the mountain tops. Charmine Vidrine, our Region 9 Regional Executive, did a wonderful job on our food selection and some of us even got "lucky" playing slots. (David may have some additional details on that one for you!)

During the Fall President's meeting, we discussed some changes forthcoming from HFMA National for our chapter, including changes to our local chapter's by-laws, incorporation into the state of Illinois and the discontinuation of our membership directory. Our Mississippi by-laws already comply with the proposed changes; however, we need to have legal

counsel review the impact of the proposed changes in incorporation. I feel sure our current president elect will be more than happy to discontinue the membership directory as will Karen Stuart, who devotes a significant amount of time and energy to completing the directory every year. More details will follow as we consider these changes that HFMA National has recommended.

Upcoming Events. I would like to personally invite you to the first ever MGMA/HFMA joint meeting to be held on Friday, November 17, 2006 in Jackson, Mississippi. There will be a welcome reception and vendor display on Thursday night, November 16. Karen has helped us line up a group of very knowledgeable and talented speakers. Our very own past President Dinetia Newman will be speaking to both groups on the topic of "Hot Regulatory and Payment Issues: the Good, Bad and Ugly." Word has it that our keynote speaker will have us in tears with laughter during his presentation. Plan now to join us for what I hope becomes an annual event for MGMA and HFMA. See page 7 for an agenda.

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### UPCOMING HFMA MEETINGS

MS HFMA / MGMA of MS Workshop

November 17, 2006  
Hilton Hotel  
Jackson, MS

HFMA Region 9 Conference

November 29 -  
December 1, 2006  
The Sheraton  
New Orleans, LA

MS HFMA / MSHIMA 2007 Coding Updates

December 1, 2006  
UMC Conference Center -  
Jackson Medical Mall  
Auditorium  
Jackson, MS

HFMA Tri-State Winter Institute

January 17-19, 2007  
Grand Casino  
Tunica, MS

MS Chapter HFMA 2007 Annual Institute

April 11-13, 2007  
Hollywood Casino  
Bay St. Louis, MS

MS Chapter HFMA Summer Workshop

June 13-15, 2007  
Hilton Hotel  
Jackson, MS



Please visit our Chapter's Web site often, as information changes frequently

[www.mshfma.org](http://www.mshfma.org)

*(President's...continued from page 1)*

Our annual Region 9 conference will be here before we know it. Plan now to meet me in New Orleans for a fun-filled educational event which I'm sure you will enjoy. Information about the Region 9 conference may be found on pages 10 - 11.

Get Involved. In closing, I'm making a plea for a new Newsletter Chairperson. As you know, with the resignation of Cheryl Cotten as our Treasurer, Brandon Slocum has moved into the Treasurer position and Kim Cappleman is replacing Brandon as a board member. This leaves Kim's position as Newsletter Chairperson open. I encourage you to contact Kim

or me if you are ready to get involved with your local HFMA chapter by becoming the Chairperson for our Newsletter for 2007-2008. There's no time like the present to get involved in your HFMA Chapter leadership!

Athena Adams, FHFMA  
Mississippi HFMA President, 2006-2007



Athena joins other chapter presidents on a trip around Lake Tahoe.



David and Athena enjoy dinner at the HFMA Fall President's Meeting.

## Hot Topics in Health Care Labor and Employment Law

*By: M. Nan Alessandra, Partner, Phelps Dunbar LLP*



As the fall of 2006 rolled in, there were several leading employment and labor decisions issued by the National Labor Relations Board and the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals which have far reaching effects in the healthcare community. It is not often that the National Labor Relations Board addresses key issues such as who is a supervisor under the National Labor Relations Act in the context of the health care community. It is possibly even less often that the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal addresses a key issue as to what pro union paraphernalia may be worn on a public hospital employee's uniform.

Aside from addressing these key labor issues in the health care arena, the Fifth Circuit also addressed whether a battery was committed by a hospital against a hospital employee stemming from the employee wearing latex gloves in her job for over 18 years. Each of these key legal issues were decided just last month and merit close review by all employers in the health care community.

### The National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB") Issues Important Ruling That a Charge Nurse is a Supervisor Under the National Labor Relations Act ("NLRA")

In a decision that could send shock waves through the American labor workforce, the NLRB ruled that registered nurses who have permanent jobs with assigning responsibilities must be considered supervisors and are, therefore, **ineligible to join unions**. In *Oakwood Healthcare Inc.*, 348 NLRB No. 37, the NLRB held recently that "permanent charge nurses" were supervisors and, therefore, not covered by the NLRA. Additionally, the NLRB held that workers who exercise independent judgment and assign tasks are supervisors and thus, do not have protected rights under the NLRA.

In this decision, the NLRB issued new interpretations regarding certain criteria defining a supervisor. The NLRA has historically defined a supervisor as an employee who has the authority to perform any of twelve (12) tasks; performs those tasks in the interests of the employer; and, uses independent judgment in the performance of those tasks. In

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(Hot Topics...continued from page 2)

this case, the NLRB issued new interpretations regarding the meaning of “assigning work” to other employees, “responsibly directing” others, and using “independent judgment.”

The NLRB interpreted the task of “assigning work” as the act of “designating an employee to a place (such as a location, department, or wing), appointing an individual to a time (such as a shift or overtime period), or giving significant overall duties to an employee. The NLRB found that choosing the order in which an employee will perform discrete tasks within the assignments (e.g. restocking one item before another item) would not be indicative of exercising the authority to assign.

The NLRB also interpreted the task of “responsibly directing work” as requiring the person directing and performing the oversight of an employee to be accountable for the performance of the task by the other employee. Such responsibility and oversight must create some adverse consequence to the one providing the oversight if the task performed by the employee is not performed properly. The NLRB found that “responsible direction” requires a showing that the employer delegated to the supervisor the authority to direct the work and the authority to take corrective actions, if necessary.

With regard to “independent judgment,” the NLRB found that judgment is not independent if it is dictated or controlled by detailed instructions. The NLRB explained that it is of no consequence, whether the instructions are set forth in company policies or rules, the verbal instructions of a higher authority, or in the provisions of a collective-bargaining agreement. The NLRB explained that the mere existence of company policies does not eliminate independent judgment from decision-making if the policies allow for discretionary choices.

Aside from the *Oakwood* decision, the NLRB ruled on two other cases. Aside from issuing a decision in the lead case, involving charge nurses at Oakwood Healthcare in Taylor, the NLRB also issued decisions involving charge nurses at Golden Crest Healthcare Center in Hibbing, Michigan, and employees at Croft Metals in McComb, Mississippi. The NLRB decided that the employees in Hibbing and McComb were not supervisors, and that nurses who simply rotate as charge nurses, but who are not permanent, are not excluded from labor law protection.

### **Discipline of Public Employee at County Hospital for Wearing Pro-Labor Union Button Upheld by the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals [“Fifth Circuit”]**

The Fifth Circuit has jurisdiction to hear cases from the federal district courts in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Typically, a three-judge panel will review an appeal. Occasionally, for important or novel issues, the entire court will review a lower court decision in what is known as an “en banc” decision. An *en banc* ruling came out just this month in the seminal decision of *Communications Workers of America v. Ector County Hospital District*, No. 03-50230 (5th Cir. 10/5/06) (en banc).

The case centered around a hospital employee named Herrera, who was a carpenter employed by the Ector County Hospital District (the “Hospital”). He was disciplined by the Hospital after he wore a “Union Yes” lapel button in violation of the Hospital’s dress code. Herrera and the Communications Workers of America (“CWA”) brought suit under § 1983, claiming that the anti-adornment provision of the dress code policy violated his First Amendment rights. The district court held that the employee had the right to wear the pro-labor union button because it was considered speech on a matter of public concern. The district court issued a permanent injunction requiring the hospital to allow all of its employees in its integrated services organization to wear buttons and awarded the plaintiffs \$548.85 in damages and \$91,000 in attorney’s fees. A divided three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit reviewed the case and affirmed the district court’s decision. However, the case didn’t stop at that point, because the Hospital sought further appellate review with the full Fifth Circuit Court. The Hospital filed a petition for rehearing en banc which was granted.

The entire Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal then proceeded to examine the issue and reversed the decisions of the district court and the appeal panel that had ruled against the Hospital. The Court held that even assuming that the button-wearing addressed a matter of public concern, it did so “only insubstantially and in a weak and attenuated sense.” The Court found that the interest of the Hospital in promoting the efficiency of the public service it performs by means of its uniform non-adornment policy outweighed the interest of its employees in wearing “Union Yes” buttons on their uniform while on duty.

### **Fifth Circuit Rules That in Order for Hospital Employee to Recover Against Her Hospital Employer for Work Related Battery, Employee Must Prove That the Employer Either Desired to Bring About the Physical Result of Its Act or Believed They Were Substantially Certain to Follow**

In another far-reaching and novel decision that appears to be one of the first decisions of its kind in the health care context, the Fifth Circuit addressed whether a “battery” had been committed by a hospital employer on a nurse by having her wear latex gloves. *Brenda Larroquette v. Cardinal Health 200, Inc. and Touro Infirmary*, et al, No. 05-30020 (5th Cir. 10/3/06). In this case, the plaintiff, Brenda Larroquette, a Louisiana nurse anesthetist who developed an allergy to latex gloves after using them on the job for 24 years, joined a battery action against her former in-state hospital employer, Touro Infirmary, with her products liability action against the non-resident latex glove manufacturers. The federal district court had decided that joinder was improper and then dismissed Ms. Larroquette’s tort action against Touro.

In the course of its opinion, the Fifth Circuit addressed the fact that since plaintiff’s alleged injuries arose within the course and scope of her employment, her exclusive remedy would generally be workers’ compensation, except when a suit would be predicated on an intentional tort, such as a battery. The Court made clear, however, that in this context “intent” or “intentional” means that the person either consciously

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## Selling Medical Debt - Boon or Bust?

By Sandy E. Riley, CME, Regional Vice President, Receivables Management Bureau



The concept of a hospital or physician selling its or his accounts receivable may seem somewhat foreign today. But the concept may change the current philosophies of managing healthcare bad debt as we currently know it.

While many in the healthcare industry believe that the sale of *current* accounts receivable may never become common place, the sale of aged accounts receivable has certainly been growing.

The growth has been partly fueled by a desire from medical providers to sell and partly fueled by an influx of new players in the healthcare purchased debt arena.

Currently, the collection industry buys approximately \$50 billion worth of bad debt a year. This debt is concentrated mostly in credit cards (70%), followed by auto loans, telecommunications, and retail debt. Healthcare debt makes up a very small segment of purchased debt sales.

However, the non-healthcare purchased debt markets have become saturated, price sensitive, and highly competitive. This has caused debt purchasers to pursue the largest segment of bad debt in the country – healthcare.

The sale of medical bad debt may not appeal to every provider, especially in the current healthcare environment that includes bad press about billing and collection practices and the desire for increased patient market share. When it comes to the thought of selling A/R, most providers express objections to losing control of their accounts, receiving patient complaints, and justifying their decision to upper management.

However, there is another side of the equation. Most hospitals and physicians are struggling with the increasing number of self-pay accounts and uninsured patients. As a result, they are looking for more creative ways of maximizing the value of the receivables they own. For instance, what happens after accounts are assigned to a provider's primary collection agency? Are the accounts returned after a certain time period? Are these accounts placed with a secondary agency? The possibility of selling bad debt has caused providers to contemplate the potential value of accounts they have in inventory with their current agency(s) and consider the advantage of selling debt as it applies to an overall strategy for their total A/R.

The public relations issue can be mitigated by working with an agency that you know and trust. The administrative burden is also non-existent with A/R that is sold because there's no longer a need to update account information.

There is one big warning for providers as it relates to this emerging service - the intentions of the debt purchasers. There are debt purchasers who have experience buying only non-healthcare debt and are looking for new hunting grounds. On the other hand, there are also debt purchasers who buy healthcare A/R because they understand the unique issues related to managing it. Success will be based on provider relationships with companies that specialize in the management of healthcare A/R.

To achieve success a seller must have a high level of trust and confidence in the purchaser and a relationship that provides a history of performance and integrity. If you decide to take the plunge, just remember - it's not always the company that's willing to pay you the most money to purchase your A/R that's necessarily the best company for the job!

## HFMA Certification



**David Williams, CPA, FHFMA, is HFMA's Region 9 Executive Elect and a long-time MS Chapter member who currently serves as Certification Chair. We asked David to provide our members some information about the HFMA Certification process. Here are some key points of which you should be aware:**

**Why should a member of HFMA consider becoming certified?** HFMA's professional certification process offers members a way to demonstrate their expertise. There are certain advantages when competing in the job market. Certification gives the member an edge. It demonstrates that you have gone beyond traditional job requirements and done something extra for your career. Certification

is a commitment to personal and professional development. It is a lot more than just the passing of an examination—that is just one component of the entire process. Certification signifies educational attainments, participation in continuing education, and experience in the appropriate field. And to be certified, you have to demonstrate personal qualities that are verified through reference checks.

**What is the best way to prepare for becoming certified?** I would recommend that a member start considering the certification process shortly after joining HFMA, because that is the best time to start becoming involved in continuing education and to become a member of a chapter committee that can lead to a committee chair or a chapter officer position. Then I would recommend the certification candidate obtain a study guide. The guide contains a complete sample exam and information on

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## HFMA National Founders Merit Award Program



*By HFMA National and Suzette Duhe'*

The Founders Merit Award program is a personal incentive program designed to encourage, monitor, and recognize individual volunteer involvement in HFMA. The program provides an equitable way to translate activities into points. Over time, it measures member involvement by looking at a collected number of points to determine how active an individual member is in HFMA.

**History.** The Founders Merit Award program was established in 1960 by HFMA to recognize the importance of individual members and the contributions they make to HFMA, on both the chapter and national levels. Points are accumulated according to the level of activity an individual holds, thereby encouraging members to participate in HFMA functions and to hold leadership roles within the organization.

**Award Levels.** Four awards can be obtained based on the point system.

- The Follmer Bronze Award is awarded to an individual who has earned 25 member points. The award is named after William G. Follmer, who established the American Association of Hospital Accountants (AAHA) (now HFMA).
- The Reeves Silver Award is awarded to an individual who has earned 50 member points. This award honors Robert H. Reeves, an organizing member of AAHA who was elected its president in 1956.
- The Muncie Gold Award is presented to a member who has earned 75 member points. This award honors Fredrick T. Muncie, who was an organizing member of the AAHA and the first president of the association (1947-49).
- A fourth award, the Founders Medal of Honor, was added in 1986 and is conferred by nomination of the member's Chapter Board of Directors. This award recognizes individuals who have been involved in the association for at least three years after earning the Muncie Gold Award, have provided significant service at the chapter and/or national level in at least two of those years, and remain members in good standing.

**How Can a Member Earn Points?** Members can earn points by: volunteering in a chapter or national committee; writing an article; mentoring a new member; proctoring a

certification exam; speaking at an event; participating on a panel and participating in a chapter or national meeting in a volunteer role.

Please note that the rules have changed since 2004 and, therefore, members no longer earn points for simply attending meetings sponsored by an HFMA chapter or region. Founder's points can be earned only by your active involvement.

Chapter members can view their Founders points in real time, 24/7 on the HFMA National web site under activities in their personal profiles in the Membership area at: [http://www.hfma.org/dual\\_login.cfm](http://www.hfma.org/dual_login.cfm). Members involved in chapter and/or National committees can see their point totals updated in January each year. The chapter's Founders Contact has the ability to add points 24/7 for individual member activity, although all points earned by members during the fiscal year should be reported to HFMA National by August 10 each year. Once complete, HFMA National processes the chapter's file and produces an award list, which is sent to the chapter's Founders Contact. The chapter president then approves the list, and awards are ordered.

It is important to remember that although HFMA National and the chapters track these points, each member is responsible for reporting points earned to the chapter's Founders Contact. Members should verify their points with their Founders Contact and make sure corrections are made if necessary. Members can view their points in detail on the HFMA web site by going to their personal profile. No points are earned for serving terms of office of less than one-half of a chapter's fiscal year for any category, services a member is paid to perform, or chapter participation prior to HFMA membership.

For more information about the Founders Award program, members should contact the chapter's Founders Award Contact, Suzette Duhe', at (228) 436-1501, or via email at [suzette.duhe@brmc.hma-corp.com](mailto:suzette.duhe@brmc.hma-corp.com).

The chapter officers and directors encourage the active involvement of all of our chapter members. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you wish to serve on any of our chapter's committees or have an interest in serving in a leadership capacity for the chapter. The more participation that we have from our members, the better the chapter becomes.

*(HFMA Certification...continued from page 4)*

how to prepare for the examination. By going through the sample questions, you can identify your strong and weak areas. The guide identifies reference books that can be used to gain background on those areas where the candidate needs work. The sample exam is not intended for rote learning. Memorizing those questions is not the proper approach. The Mississippi Chapter also offers assistance to candidates through coaching courses at workshops during the year.

### What is the process?

#### HFMA Certification Requirements

- 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](http://hfma.org/certification)

**Are there other points interested person, should know about the exam?** I would like to emphasize that I will do everything possible to make the testing available and as accessible as possible once the candidate is ready to take the exam. The candidate must have a qualified proctor to monitor the examination; therefore, I ask that you let me know early on so I can make arrangements.

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to share about a topic to which I am very dedicated. Certified members elevates our recognition among health care financial leaders and it gives me great satisfaction in enabling members to reach this milestone in their career.

*(Hot Topics...continued from page 3)*

desires the physical result of his act for whatever the likelihood of that result happening from the conduct or, knows that the result substantially certain to follow from its conduct whatever the desire may be as to the end result.

In applying the foregoing principles to the factual allegations of Ms. Larroquette's complaint, the Fifth Circuit concluded that there was simply no reasonable basis to predict that Ms. Larroquette might be able to recover from Touro for intentionally causing her sensitization and allergy to latex. According to the Court, without even deciding that Touro's actions and policy in requiring its employees to use latex gloves by stocking its facilities with only that type of glove was causally related to Ms. Larroquette's latex sensitization, her factual contentions could not support a finding that Touro either desired to cause her harm or knew to a substantial

certainty that her latex sensitization for allergy would result from its conduct.

Although this decision arose in connection with a Louisiana hospital employer, it provides useful guidances to all hospital employers in the Fifth Circuit jurisdictional area of Mississippi and Texas, since the case sets forth the factual scenarios that can evolve with employees who try to break through workers' compensation tort immunity in factual circumstances that occur day-to-day in every hospital where hospital employees where latex gloves such as those worn by Ms. Larroquette.

## Pictures from 2006 Summer Workshop



## MS HFMA Welcomes New Members

NAME	COMPANY	TITLE	ADDRESS
Kevin D. Adams	Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center	Patient Account Manager	2124 14 <sup>th</sup> St. Meridian, MS 39301-4040
Rob Ainsworth	River Oaks Hospital		350 Crossgates Blvd. Brandon, MS 39042-2601
Sandra K. Baker	The Mash Program	Operations Manager	6620 N. Gessner #5102 Houston, TX 77040
Brett Bateman	Horne LLP	Associate	200 E. Capitol St. Suite 1400 Jackson, MS 39201-2204
Angie D. Cox	Tippah County Hospital	Business Office Director	P.O. Box 499 Ripley, MS 38663-0499
Kristy Duke	North Mississippi Health Services	Accounting Director	830 S. Gloster St. Tupelo, MS 38801-4934
Dawn Errington	Health Management Associates	Regional Payroll Director	100 Southpointe Dr. Byram, MS 39272-5565
Gerald Flouhouse	Tupelo Anesthesia Group	Administrator	913 Garfield St. Tupelo, MS 38801-5737
Mindy R. Hill	North MS Medical Center – West Point	Insurance Clerk	835 Medical Center Dr. West Point, MS 39773-9320
Pam Humphreys	North Mississippi Health Services	Accounting Supervisor	830 S. Gloster St. Tupelo, MS 38801-4934
Connie Noel Jenkins	Health Management Associates	Regional Accounts Payable Mgr.	424 Louisa St. Pearl, MS 39208-5842
Lauren R. Massey	KPMG, LLP	Associate	1130 Spanish Oak Dr. Pearl, MS 39208-5068
Edward Pipkin	Tri-Lakes Medical Center	IT Director	303 Medical Center Dr. Batesville, MS 38606-8608
Amanda R. Price	KPMG, LLP	Audit Associate	216 Crosscreek Drive Brandon, MS 39047
Tara C. Robinson	Pioneer Health Services, Inc.	Dir. of Patient Financial Services	525 Main Avenue Magee, MS 39111
Michael W. Ruffin	River Oaks Health Systems	Controller	1030 River Oaks Dr. Flowood, MS 39232
Rob Stultz	Forrest General Hospital	Vice President	6051 US Hwy 49 Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Beth B. White	Tri-Lakes Medical Center	Business Office Manager	303 Medical Center Dr. Batesville, MS 38606-8608

## Interested in Corporate Sponsorship?

<p><b>PLATINUM SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition on the Meeting Sponsor Board</li> <li>Reception held in honor of the corporate sponsors to introduce them to the members</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter newsletter</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter workshop brochure</li> <li>Recognition on the Chapter website</li> <li>Free registration for two people at each Chapter workshop, including the annual meeting</li> <li>At the opening session of the workshop of your choice, you may have 3-5 minutes to introduce yourself to the group</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$3,000 per year</b></p>	<p><b>SILVER SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition on the Meeting Sponsor Board</li> <li>Reception held in honor of the corporate sponsors to introduce them to the members</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter newsletter</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter workshop brochure</li> <li>Recognition on the Chapter website</li> <li>Free registration for one person at each Chapter workshop (Summer, Fall and Winter)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$1,500 per year</b></p>
<p><b>GOLD SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition on the Meeting Sponsor Board</li> <li>Reception held in honor of the corporate sponsors to introduce them to the members</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter newsletter</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter workshop brochure</li> <li>Recognition on the Chapter website</li> <li>Free registration for two people at each Chapter workshop (Summer, Fall and Winter)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$2,000 per year</b></p>	<p><b>BRONZE SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition on the Meeting Sponsor Board</li> <li>Reception held in honor of the corporate sponsors to introduce them to the members</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter newsletter</li> <li>Recognition in each Chapter workshop brochure</li> <li>Recognition on the Chapter website</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$1,000 per year</b></p>

## CORPORATE SPONSORS Mississippi Chapter HFMA

### PLATINUM SPONSORS

(\$3,000 Contribution)

- Franklin Collection Services, Inc.
- Horne LLP
- KPMG LLP
- PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
- The Mash Program

### GOLD SPONSORS

(\$2,000 Contribution)

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(\$1,000 Contribution)

- Passport Health Communications, Inc.
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- Smith, Turner & Reeves, PA

**MGMA of MS  
And  
MS Chapter HFMA  
2006  
Fall Meeting  
Friday, November 17, 2006  
Hilton Hotel, Jackson, MS**

AGENDA

Thursday, November 16, 2006

5:00 - 6:00 MGMA of MS Board Meeting  
6:30 - 8:00 Reception

Friday, November 17, 2006

7:30 - 8:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast  
8:00 – 8:15 WELCOME – Janice Kay, CMPE, MGMA of MS  
President and Athena Adams, MS HFMA President  
8:00 – 10:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *THE VALUE OF EFFECTIVE  
LEADERSHIP* – Roger Reece, Fudwhacker Consulting  
10:00 – 10:30 **BREAK WITH VENDORS**

HFMA SESSION

10:30 – 12:00 *How to Get Inpatient Records Accurately Documented,  
and Avoid OIG Audits* – Bruce Toppin and Dr. Garry  
Huff, North Mississippi Health Services

MGMA SESSION

10:30 – 11:30 *Hot Regulatory and Payment Issues for Physician  
Practices: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* – Dinetia  
M. Newman, Phelps Dunbar LLP  
11:30 – 12:00 *Mississippi Medicaid Reform: The Changing Face of  
Medicaid* – Jacquelyn Weatherspoon, Mississippi Health  
Advocacy Program  
12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH**

HFMA SESSION

1:00 – 2:00 *Hot Regulatory and Payment Issues for Hospitals and  
Health Systems: The Government Giveth and The  
Government Taketh Away* – Dinetia M. Newman, Phelps  
Dunbar LLP

MGMA SESSION

1:00 – 2:00 *What your Provider Wants in an EHR and How to Pay  
For It* – Nancy R. Babbitt, CMPE, Roswell Pediatric  
Center, P.C.  
2:30 – 3:30 *The Seamless Connection Between Physician Offices  
and Hospitals* – Robert Geer, ARM Ltd.  
3:30 Closing Remarks and Door Prizes  
4:00 **MGMA of MS BUSINESS MEETING** – Active MGMA  
Members Only Please



**hfma** region 9

healthcare financial management association

arkansas, louisiana, mississippi, oklahoma, texas



Let the Good Times  
Roll....Again!

Help us put the  
Swing back in  
New Orleans!!

Up to 17 CPE hours  
TSBPA Sponsor #00713  
HFMA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

2006 Conference  
Partners

CareMedic Systems



# 2006 region 9 Annual Conference

November 29 - December 1  
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Make your hotel reservations now!!!  
Reservations deadline for the group rate is  
November 13

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel  
500 Canal Street | New Orleans, LA  
504.525.2500

[www.sheratonneworleans.com](http://www.sheratonneworleans.com)

Be sure to specify the HFMA Region 9 Conference  
when making reservations.

Presented by the HFMA Region 9 Chapters:  
Arkansas | Louisiana | Mississippi | Oklahoma  
South Texas | Texas Gulf Coast | Texas Lone Star

## Agenda At a Glance

## General Information

### Wednesday, November 29

12:00 - 7:00 pm	Conference Registration
12:00 - 5:00 pm	Exhibit Area Setup
1:00 - 5:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Charge Masters are Easy...It's Charge Capture That's Tough: Get the Charges on the Bill !!</i></li> <li>● <i>HFMA Certification Coaching - Are You Ready for the Future?</i></li> </ul>
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception / Exhibits Open

### Thursday, November 30

7:00 am - 7:30 pm	Conference Registration / Exhibits Open
7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast in the Exhibit Area
8:00 - 9:30 am	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>National Legislative Update</i></li> </ul>
9:30 - 10:00 am	Refreshment Break in Exhibit Area
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>The Future of Healthcare, Financing Innovations, and Lowering Healthcare Costs</i></li> </ul>
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch in the Exhibit Area
1:00 - 5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Certification Course (cont.)</i></li> </ul>
1:00 - 2:15 pm	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Preparing to Achieve Self Pay Processing Excellence... Leading a Successful Change Initiative</i></li> <li>● <i>Capital Markets &amp; Finance</i></li> <li>● <i>Optimizing Reimbursement Through Clinical Documentation</i></li> </ul>
2:15 - 3:30 pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>The Convergence of Financial Services and Healthcare: Starting with HSAs and HRAs</i></li> </ul>
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Break in Exhibit Area
4:00 - 5:30 pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Program Your Mind for Success</i></li> </ul>
5:30 - 7:30 pm	Conference Reception / Exhibits Open
7:30 pm	Exhibits Close

### Friday, December 1

7:30 - 10:00 am	Breakfast in the Ballroom Foyer
7:30 - 10:00 am	Exhibit Breakdown
8:00 - 10:30 am	General Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>HFMA and Your Healthcare Career</i></li> <li>● <i>Leadership Beyond the Numbers</i></li> </ul>
10:30 - 11:00 am	Refreshment Break
11:00am - 12:30pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Envisioning Your Revenue Cycle Future</i></li> </ul>

### Conference Hotel

#### Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

500 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

#### Make Reservations Early

A limited number of rooms are available at the conference rate.

#### November 13 is the cut-off date for the HFMA Group Rate.

\$159 Single or Double, plus taxes  
\$189 Club Level  
Overnight Parking - \$24.99

For the past two years we have sold out our room block well before the cutoff date.

504.525.2500

[www.sheratonneworleans.com](http://www.sheratonneworleans.com)

Be sure to specify the HFMA Region 9 Conference when making reservations.

### Cancellation / Substitution

**Until November 10:** Full refund for written cancellations.

**Until November 17:** Refunds less a \$75 service charge for written cancellations.

**After November 17:** Substitutions, but no cancellations or refunds.

Substitutions are permitted - please contact us to update the badge information.

Cancellations must be received in writing: by fax to 713.776.1308; by email to [reservations@hfmaregion9.org](mailto:reservations@hfmaregion9.org) (be sure you receive and print a confirmation of your cancellation); or by mail.

### Dress

Casual business attire is suggested for all sessions and events.

### CPE Credit

Up to 17 CPE credit hours are available depending on your reporting jurisdiction. CPE credits are sponsored by the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of HFMA, Sponsor # 00713 of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. TSBA credits are generally honored in other states. Sign-in sheets and certificates will be provided.

All HFMA educational programs earn points toward HFMA certification, certification maintenance requirements, and Founders Awards.

### Contact

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P.O. Box 631206  
Houston, TX 77263-1206  
[info@hfmaregion9.org](mailto:info@hfmaregion9.org)  
[www.hfmaregion9.org](http://www.hfmaregion9.org)  
Tel: 713.776.1314  
Fax: 713.776.1308

*Present*

## **2007 Coding Updates**

**December 1, 2006**

UMC Conference Center  
Jackson Medical Mall Auditorium  
350 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

### **Who Should Attend:**

HIM Coders, Internal Auditors, Business Office Denial Staff, Revenue Cycle Management Staff, Compliance staff, Financial Staff involved with contracting

### **Workshop Description:**

This session will focus on hospital reimbursement issues for Acute Care Short Term Hospitals receiving payment under Medicare APC reimbursement methodologies.

### **Key Areas of Focus:**

- Updating your 'toolbox'
- Status indicator changes
- Facility Emergency Department and Hospital Provider Based Clinics
- Correct Coding Initiative
- Outpatient Code Editor
- Impact Analysis
- New Services
- Chargemaster Issues
- Non Medicare Payors using variations of APC Methodologies

### **Instructor:**

Jean Ann Hartzell, RHIA, CPC is Vice President, Minzey Enterprises – Business Consultant to Medicine. Ms. Hartzell is a Healthcare professional with more than thirty years of experience in management, documentation, health information coding and reimbursement. She has experience in physician practice management, short term and long term acute care hospitals, rehabilitation inpatient and outpatient, home health, skilled nursing, nursing home, and surgery centers and nutrition and medical sciences. A specialist in reimbursement methodologies for with all major third party payment systems, she has provided more than 2,700 technical workshops nationally. Jean Ann is a senior instructor for Healthcare Education Strategies, Inc. She has been an educator for Louisiana, and Mississippi Hospital Associations for twenty years as well as State and local chapters of HFMA and State chapters of NAQP nationally. She provides vocational and business development for displaced homemakers; co manages and operates an international E-Commerce business for products and services.

The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Health Information Management Association. This program is approved by AHIMA for 5 ½ continuing education hours.

## **Agenda**

Attendees should  
bring the 2007  
editions of:  
CPT and HCPCS

8:30 - 9:00 Registration  
9:00 - 4:00 Coding Updates Workshop

\*\*Lunch will be provided

## 2006-2007 MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER HFMA ADMINISTRATION

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*Mississippi Headlines, the official  
newsletter of the Mississippi Chapter  
of the HFMA, published by:*

Kim Cappleman - Newsletter Editor  
Phelps Dunbar LLP

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[capplemk@phelps.com](mailto:capplemk@phelps.com).

*Newsletter layout and design contributed by Phelps Dunbar LLP.*