



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Educational Opportunities	2
Member News	3
NPs Vote to Form New National Membership Organization	3
ABMS Maintenance of Certification	4
Happy Birthday to our great State of Maine	4
What, not Who is SAM!	5
Redesigned CAQH.org Website Coming in 2013	5
The Road to Certification	6
Spring is in the air . . . we hope!	7
News Snippets	7
Lending Library	7
Board Members	8
Useful Links	8
Guidelines for Submitting Articles	8

Passing on the Gavel!

It is with great pleasure that I pass the President's gavel on to **Rose Lyons, CPCS**. Two years has gone by very fast in many respects but there is still much left to do. Your newly elected Board and committee chairs, with Rose's leadership, will carry forward those projects not yet completed and continue to maintain a sound fiscal budget.

By way of introduction, let me tell you a bit about Rose. Rose has been in the credentialing field for more than fifteen years. She is certified as a CPCS, has been with the Synernet CVO since 2000, and manages the credentialing process for all applications at the CVO. As part of this management, she must be

knowledgeable of the credentialing process, rules and regulations not only for the state of Maine but for all CVO customers, encompassing New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York.

Anyone who knows Rose is aware of her golfing ability – she has won many matches and several tournaments. What some of you may not know about Rose is that she used to be a chef and continues to love to cook. She also loves to scrap book and travels at least twice a year to attend scrapping conventions. During the better weather, Rose can also be seen biking in the area as she and Bruce put a lot of miles on their bicycles.

I wish Rose a successful two years as President of the Maine Association Medical Staff Services. I am fortunate to be able to continue as Past President to work along with her, the returning board members and newly elected board members. Please be sure to contact any of your board members if you have questions, ideas, or would like to volunteer to serve your professional association.

Debra Carter
Past President



New MEAMSS President, Rose Lyons, CPCS.

President's Message

"Live, Learn and Grow"

Dear Colleagues,

This is my **mantra** [mántr] Definition: "often repeated expression or idea: an expression or idea that is repeated, often without thinking about it, and closely associated with something."

Three simple words to live by!

Live - In our professional lives our jobs can often turn into our lives, so we should avoid making unreasonable demands on ourselves. How many hours a day should you work? As we all know, in the medical arena we could spend 15 hours a day at our job and still not finish what we had planned to do that day. So make sure, when you leave your office for the day, you have

time to live—go for a walk, ride your bike, spend time with your loved ones.

Learn - Never be afraid to learn. Our world is constantly changing around us and we have to be ready to move with it. You can teach an old dog new tricks, and the more tricks you know the easier your life will be.

Grow - If you live and learn then you will grow. I look back to when I started working in the kitchen at the Osteopathic Hospital. One day during 1995 in the cafeteria, Cheryl Schilke said "I think you should come and work for me" and the rest is history! I started as her receptionist, then moved into

credentialing, and today, I am her operations manager with over 10,000 providers in our database.

I continue to Live, Learn and Grow every day. I turned 55 in November, and my life just keeps getting better. I look forward to providing the best leadership I can to our MeAMSS membership and our board as your President.

Thank you,
Rose Lyons
President

Upcoming Educational Opportunities



Friday, May 3, 2013
Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems in Brewer
8:30 am to 3 pm

Friday, August 2, 2013
Waldo County General Hospital in Belfast
8:30 am to 3 pm

Friday, November 8, 2013
Goodall Hospital in Sanford
8:30 am to 3 pm



*“Believe you
can and
you're halfway
there.”*

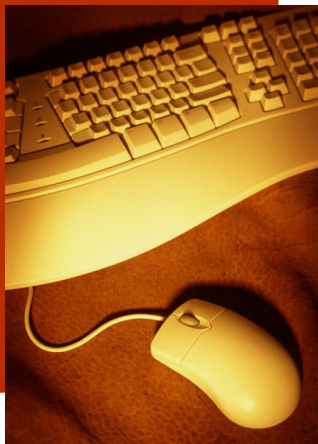
Theodore Roosevelt

NAMSS Annual Conference & Exhibition



September 21-25, 2013
The Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa
Hollywood, Florida

Save the date!



2013 NAMSS Certification Testing Dates and Deadlines

Summer Testing Period

Application Deadline:
Friday, April 19, 2013
Testing Period:
Saturday, June 15 through
Saturday, July 6, 2013

Fall Testing Period

Application Deadline:
Friday, August 9, 2013
Testing Period:
Saturday, October 5 through
Saturday, October 26, 2013

The 2013 Candidate Handbook is available online at www.NEAMSS.org

Membership News

A complete listing of MeAMSS members, by last name and by organization name, can be found at:
<http://meamss.org/membership.asp>



Congratulations!

Jake Theberge of Martin's Point Health Care, and **Nancy Horn** of Spectrum Medical Group are to be congratulated on achieving their CPCS Certifications in 2012.

**“Success is not final,
 failure is not fatal,
 it is the courage to
 continue that counts.”**

Winston Churchill

Nurse Practitioners Vote to Form New National Membership Organization

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and The American College of Nurse Practitioners will consolidate, creating The American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

AUSTIN, TX (November 19, 2012)

– The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American College of Nurse Practitioners today announced they are moving forward with plans to consolidate effective January 1, 2013. The combined organization will be known as the American Association of Nurse Practitioners or AANP. With approximately 40,000 members, AANP will serve as the largest professional membership organization in the country for nurse practitioners of all specialties.

Leaders from both the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American College of Nurse Practitioners will play key roles in governing the new organization. As of today, David Hebert, who has been serving as Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Nurse Practitioners, will begin serving as CEO of AANP. Dr. Angela Golden, currently serving as President of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, will retain her position through June 2013. Dr. Ken Miller, currently the American College of Nurse Practitioners' president-elect, will become the co-president with Dr. Golden at the AANP conference in June 2013.

The consolidation comes at a time when fewer physicians are pursuing primary care medicine and nurse practitioners are playing an increasingly critical role in providing access to high-quality primary, acute and specialty care. This is even more urgent with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act moving forward, adding 30 million Americans to the rolls of the insured.

By consolidating, the new AANP will add a strong, unified voice to the growing movement working to ensure nurse practitioners can practice to their fullest potential, thus best serving patients and their families.

“The nurse practitioner community has made it clear that they support this alliance and share our vision for one entity that represents the very best of what we have to offer as health care providers,” said Angela Golden, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, current President of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. “Coming together better serves our members and benefits our patients who need nurse practitioners now more than ever.”

“Today’s health care environment demands more efficiency and innovation as we look to control costs and improve outcomes,” said Jill Olmstead, MSN, NP-C, President of the American College of Nurse Practitioners. “This consolidation exemplifies how collaboration and future-forward thinking can bring about positive changes across the health care spectrum.”

Nurse practitioners are prepared at the graduate level, with master’s degrees or doctorates, which enables them to provide many of the health care services typically associated with physicians. In addition to being expert clinicians, nurse practitioners also focus on health promotion and disease prevention, together with health education and counseling to guide patients in making smarter health and lifestyle choices.

For more information about AANP, visit www.aanp.org

Article reprinted with permission.



ABMS Maintenance of Certification



What does it mean when a profile states “MOC . . . Re-verification . . .?”

MOC requires continuous professional activity. Several Member Boards determined that a fixed expiration date is not applicable, and have decided to use a reporting model that includes a re-verification date instead of an end date. This model may be adopted by other Member Boards over time.

As of January 1, 2010 The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), no longer issues new certificates or re-certifications with end dates. Four additional boards (The American Boards of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry and

Neurology and Radiology) began reporting MOC using this model in August 2012. As recertification occurs or new certificates are issued, they will be reported to reflect MOC participation with an annual re-verification date. The date may vary by board.

Example:

Pediatrics 10/15/2001 - 12/31/2009, MOC 01/01/2010, Re-verification 02/15/2013.

The re-verification date will update once a year as an indication that the physician is still "meeting requirements" of MOC. If the physician does not

remain current in MOC, the profile will display NOT CERTIFIED. If the physician has a Lifetime certification and chooses to voluntarily participate in MOC, the Lifetime certification status will not change regardless of MOC participation status.



American Board of Medical Specialties
Higher standards. Better care.®

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.”

Helen Keller

ABMS Member Boards' Summary Table: MOC - No End Dates

ABMS Member Boards, that have eliminated end dates, recognize that some entities may still need a certification end date to complete Primary Source Verification. To assist in this process, we encourage credentialers to utilize an annual re-verification date, provided by each Member Board below. Please note that physician certification status will only change once a year, unless a certificate is revoked for disciplinary reasons. Therefore, by utilizing the annual re-verification date suggested, you will have accurate information about a physician's current certification status.

ABMS Member Board	Display Status	Annual Re-verification Date
American Board of Pediatrics	Current	Feb. 15
American Board of Family Medicine	8/31/2012	Feb. 15
American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology	8/31/2012	Mar. 1
American Board of Radiology	8/31/2012	Mar. 15

† Re-verification will occur on the same date each year as specified by each Member Board in the table.

For more information visit www.abms.org

Happy Birthday to our Great State of Maine!

Maine officially became a state on **March 15, 1820**. It is as big as the other five New England states combined and it is the only state in the continental United States that borders only one other state. Maine is also the only state that has one syllable in its name.

Some other interesting trivia about Maine:

- Eastport is the first place in the United States to receive the rays of the morning sun.
- Maine has 3,478 miles of coastline—more than California!

- Maine's earliest inhabitants were descendants of Ice Age hunters.
- Portland was first temporarily selected as the state capital.
- Acadia National Park is the second most visited national park in the United States.
- Togus was the first Veteran's Hospital in the United States, founded in 1866.
- 90% of the country's toothpick supply is produced in Maine.
- The nation's first sawmill was established near York in 1623.

- The first naval battle of the Revolutionary War was fought off Machias in 1775.
- Maine native, Chester Greenwood, invented earmuffs.
- The Bangor locals call the ball field, paid for by author Stephen King, the “Field of Screams.”



What, not Who is SAM!

Now a part of the System for Awards Management (SAM) the EPLS is an electronic, web-based system that identifies those parties excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain types of Federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits. The EPLS keeps its user community aware of administrative and statutory exclusions across the entire government, and individuals barred from entering the United States.

All the information that was in EPLS was moved to SAM, but here are some changes you will see:

- SAM no longer uses Cause and Treatment (CT) codes. These codes have been mapped to four Exclusion Types: Ineligible (Proceedings Pending), Ineligible (Proceedings Completed), Prohibition/Restriction, and Voluntary Exclusion. The Exclusion Type shown specifies why an entity is on the excluded parties list and communicates the associated ramifications (e.g., whether I can award a contract to this entity, etc.). Any record that was previously entered in EPLS with a CT code will display that code on the screen as historical data, but future records in SAM will have no CT codes. If you would like to see a list of CT codes

and how they were mapped, please go to www.sam.gov, select Help from the top navigation bar, and select “Exclusions Information” and then “Exclusion Types” in the left navigation panel.

- Exclusions are categorized into four Classification Types: Firm, Individual, Vessel, and Special Entity Designation. The last category is a miscellaneous category for any organization that cannot be considered a Firm, Individual, or Vessel, but still needs to be excluded. For example, the “Terrorists Against the USA” organization does not fit into any of the previous categories and would be considered a Special Entity Designation.

Use the following steps to search based on SSN or TIN:

Remember, just like the old EPLS system, there are some searches that require additional information and exact matches to prevent phishing for information. For example, if you want to search by an SSN or TIN, you are also required to provide the first and last name of the entity as well. Both sets of information must match the record exactly in order for a result to be displayed.

The following is an example, showing how to search by SSN:

- Go to SAM.gov
- Click on Search Records
- Click on the search icon to bring up all records
- Click on the Performance Information check box in the Filter panel on the left side of the screen
- Click on Entity Information
- Click on Individual Name
- Click on First Name and enter the entity’s first name in the box provided
- Click on Last Name and enter the entity’s last name in the box provided
- Click on SSN and enter the entity’s social security number in the box provided
- Click on Apply Filters

<https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>



“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Redesigned CAQH.org Website Coming in 2013

CAQH is preparing to unveil a redesigned website in 2013 to better serve the wide range of individuals and organizations across the healthcare industry with relevant information through CAQH.org.

As part of this effort, CAQH conducted a website survey in August. Thank you to everyone who responded. These findings are helping inform structure, design, and functionality of the website. While the

primary reason for visiting CAQH.org varied widely among respondents, there was consensus that the most important web attributes are ease of use, navigability, and the inclusion of relevant and up-to-date information.

The redesigned CAQH.org website will offer a simple and user-friendly design, improved navigation to streamline the visitor experience and make it easier to locate and share content, as well as

dedicated sections for news and updates.

Watch for an announcement about the completed CAQH.org redesign in 2013.

<http://www.caqh.org/>



The Road to Certification

“There isn't a person anywhere who isn't capable of doing more than he thinks he can.”

Henry Ford



As with anything new, the road to change can be filled with trepidation. As a long-standing proponent of personal and professional development, it seemed natural that I would pursue certification in credentialing after I unexpectedly found myself in the field. Sure, I had a background in healthcare administration, but I had never primary-source-verified anything...or had I?

I pondered my new role with skepticism and kept a close eye on mentor, Pat O'Connor, as she lilted effortlessly through a day that made my head spin. What was all this checking, probing and documenting about anyway? I quickly learned that it was all about patient safety. “Don't worry - your work is very important, even if you are working in a closet in the hospital sub-basement,” Pat assured me. I was intrigued and knew then that I would eventually endeavor down the road to certification.

According to NAMSS, the goal of certification is to, “Distinguish those professionals who demonstrate an established level of knowledge and expertise in the field.” When I applied for the CPCS exam, I was motivated most by a sense of wanting to legitimize myself in the field. Despite the challenging reputation of the exam, it mattered little to me what anyone thought or whether I would fail. What mattered most was that I was committing to a goal of

education and to a better understanding of my role in healthcare. I was not certifying myself as a perfect human being.

In my self-imposed study mélange of uncertainty, indifference and determination, I incorporated many, varied tools. My study practices for the CPCS consisted of a combination of reading (Verify and Comply, The Medical Staff Services Handbook) reviewing legal cases, accreditation standards and verification timeframes, as well as taking the NAMSS online prep course and practice exam. When it came time for the CPMSM, I attended the NAMSS Annual Conference in Dallas and took the two-day live prep course. Ultimately, if I had to reference a particular tool which I considered the most helpful in determining my strengths and weaknesses, I would enthusiastically recommend the NAMSS online practice exam as the most valuable. The important take-away about preparation is that not all study approaches work for all people and not all credentialing jobs incorporate all aspects of the exam. If you want to take a leisurely year to study, do that. If you want to do a nightly review for 30 days, do that. Choose what works for you, focusing on unfamiliar areas first and you will be successful.

Now, if NAMSS would only create a credentialing certification in single-handedly doing the work of five people

or completing a file in one week when it takes ninety days, there would be no preparation needed. In the meantime, we soldier on in our quest to establish a politically correct way of saying, “No, you cannot work here simply because you enjoy Netflix reruns of “House” and the Chief of Surgery is your next-door neighbor – there is a process that must be followed! Whether you are sited at a hospital, health plan, ambulatory setting, group practice or CVO, there are two things you can most certainly count on; your work, dedication, commitment and regulatory understanding is critically important to the safety of someone in need of healthcare and in the time it took you to read this, twenty more initial applications have appeared on your desk.

It matters not whether you embrace your certification goals privately or with great fanfare. Your preparation path might be lengthy or just a jaunt around the corner. Trust the instincts and talents which you routinely employ in your daily work and remember that taking a risk is always the first step toward any type of success. So go ahead and be bold. Push aside the obstacles and quiet the questioning, inner-voice of uncertainty. Dare to set yourself apart. Your achievement is waiting.

Fiona Ferguson, CPMSM, CPCS

Fiona is the Manager of Credentialing Services at Spectrum Medical Group in South Portland, Maine and a freelance writer.

Spring is in the air . . . we hope!

Daffodils

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed-and gazed-but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth



News Snippets

Check out FSMB's Model Policy on Social Media & Networking

FSMB's Special Committee on Ethics and Professionalism has issued guidance on social media and social networking in the healthcare industry. Check it out at <http://www.fsmb.org/pdf/pub-social-media-guidelines.pdf>

Deal with physician impairment before it's a safety risk By Karen Caffarini

Attorneys and experts recommend that practices have policies that address how to define and handle a colleague who might represent a safety threat to patients. <http://www.amednews.com/article/20130311/business/130319984/5/>

The proposed new Conditions of Participation rules from CMS

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-02-07/pdf/2013-02421.pdf>

Lending Library

Materials will be on display at biennial MeAMSS meetings, but are available for loan at any time.

Items may be loaned for 90 days.

If you would like an item mailed to you, please complete the request form. It is located under the section *Policy & Bylaws* then under *Purchase and Loan of Educational Materials* policy. It can be faxed or emailed to Roseann Napoleone,

Once the request is received, the item will be mailed to you.

Roseann's contact information:
Ph: (207)283-7072
Fx: (207)283-7070
mad.rin@smmc.org

A list of materials is available online at: <http://meamss.org/Library.asp>





2012-2013 Board Members

President

Rose Lyons, CPCS
rlyons@Syner.net

President-Elect

Melanie Crowe, CPCS
mcrowe@parkviewamc.org

Past President

Debra Carter, CPMSM, CPCS
dcarter@syner.net

Secretary

Susan Gilson, CPCS
suegilson@tamc.org

Treasurer

Rebecca West
bwest@CaryMed.org

Education Chair

Rosanne Napoleone, CPCS, CPMSM
mad.rin@smmc.org

Lighthouse Editor

Helen Burnett
helen.burnett@bhmh.org

Media Chair

Judy Lovejoy
jlovejoy@rh.cmhc.org

Membership Chair

Nancy Horn, CPCS
hornn9@spectrummg.com

Member-at-Large

Kim Hall
khall@houltonregional.org

Useful websites:

<http://www.namss.org/>

<http://meamss.org/>

<http://www.docboard.org/docfinder.html>

<http://www.pfr.maine.gov/ALMSOnline/ALMSQuery/Welcome.aspx>

<http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/>

<http://www.ama-assn.org/>

<http://www.nccpa.net/Default.aspx>

<http://www.aana.com/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.nbcrna.com/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.amcbmidwife.org/index.php>

<http://www.nursecredentialing.org/default.aspx>

<https://www.doprofiles.org/index.cfm>

<http://www.osteopathic.org/Pages/default.aspx>

http://www.docboard.org/me/me_home.htm

<http://www.maine.gov/osteo/index.htm>

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/chaps10.htm>

<http://www.archives.gov/locations/index.html>

<http://www.cms.gov/>

<http://www.jointcommission.org/>

<http://www.qualityforum.org/Home.aspx>

http://www.simplifiedatasolutions.com/sds_quiz.htm

<http://www.hcpro.com/credentialing-privileging/index.cfm>

Guidelines for submitting articles:

- Any text submitted other than by electronic means must be typed.
- Any photography submitted must identify individuals pictured, and nature of photograph.
- Provide all details regarding events or announcements, including location and exact address, date, time, contact, and applicable telephone, fax, e-mail, and Web.
- Data submitted should be concise and not exceed 500 words.
- Please make sure you get permission for any article submissions.

Remember—This is your newsletter, let's share forms, policies, processes,



<http://meamss.org/>