

Massachusetts Ambulance Association

Membership Meeting Agenda | July 13, 2016 | Teleconference

Call to Order and President's Greeting

President John Chemaly

Secretary's Report

Secretary Sean Tyler

- Review of May meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Peter Hoare

- Financial report-out.
- New member, Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance
- Membership dues rate increase to be discussed at a future meeting.
- MAA is in the process of fully transitioning routine financial tasks to AAA.
- The MAA board has established an operating reserves account, at the suggestion of AAA.
 - The board approved an initial deposit of \$5000, with an annual year-end review to determine if additional deposits are appropriate.
 - Maintaining a reserves account for a rainy day is standard nonprofit operating procedure.

MassHealth ALS1 Coding Challenges

Director Bill Mergendahl

- The Massachusetts Attorney General is currently scrutinizing the practice of billing MassHealth for ALS1 emergency care using Medicare codes. While the AG is presently focused on Cataldo, this issue impacts ambulance services across the state as the practice in question is very commonly understood by EMS to be acceptable.
- Director Bill Mergendahl has been exploring possible affirmative defenses to protect MAA members. During his consideration of the issue, he developed a theory that HIPAA, and transaction codesets related to HIPAA, require that all of the Level 2 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes be the same. While it is black letter law that the code and descriptors are the same, there is some debate as to whether the definitions must be the same.
- Director Bill Mergendahl has contracted Tom Barker of Foley Hoag, former general counsel to CMS, to execute a multiphase effort to develop the defense, at an estimated total cost of \$50,000.
 - Phase 1: Foley Hoag to research the feasibility of this theoretical defense, then draft a supportive memo.
 - Phase 2: Share memo with CMS.
 - Phase 3: Research other states with similar issues to bolster the case.
- The Massachusetts Ambulance Association board approved funds to cover at least Phase 1 of the Foley Hoag project. Furthermore, contingent upon the favorable response of Phase 1, that the Association will continue to fund Phases 2 and 3.

- As part of a multifaceted approach to solving this problem, Barker is simultaneously working on getting an administrative ruling from CMS instructing Massachusetts to match their code definitions to those of Medicare, which will render the Attorney General's case moot. Passing legislation is a fallback plan. An administrative ruling would be easier and cleaner.

Legislative Update

Bill Cass (Suffolk Group)

- Recap of upcoming and future meetings.
- Direct pay bill status update.
- Outreach to legislative contacts.

MassHealth Medical Necessity Form (MNF) Education

Secretary Sean Tyler

- The June 20 webcast MNF webinar had a very high level of participant engagement, and received myriad follow-up questions and requests for Fallon's editable PDF form.
- Total attendance was 27, with three paid non-member registrants totaling \$225 in revenue.
- The archived session is available to MAA members on the new [Billing and Reimbursement webpage](#), a link to which was emailed to all members on June 28.
- Member questions about MNF form completion.
- MAA is considering the development of an explanatory letter for member organizations to share with SNFs and perhaps hospitals educating them about the new MNF procedures.

Membership Affinity Benefits

Colleen Crowley (AAA)

- Details of MAA's new affinity programs with ZOLL, Sterling Backcheck, Payline Data credit card processing, and Savvik Buying Group discounted supply purchasing group have been added to the new [Member Savings page](#) of the MAA website.

Association Management Update

Colleen Crowley (AAA)

- The new MAA website is live, and accepts credit card payments via Stripe.
- Thanks to Fallon, Cataldo, and Stat for sending press releases and articles about their services for inclusion on the site, as well as Ron Quaranto for sitting for a fantastic [Mobile Integrated Health interview](#).
- AAA extends its thanks to MAA for agreeing to include the [September 29 Compliance and Billing workshop](#) on the MAA site. MAA members that do not hold AAA membership will receive a \$50 discount.

MAA Fall Education Workshop

Colleen Crowley (AAA)

- The MAA's contract with AAA includes the execution of a one-day educational workshop featuring content of MAA's choice.
- Member suggestions for speakers, topics, dates and locations.

Other Business

All

Closing & Adjournment

President John Chemaly