NEWSCAST

Metro NY HFMA

Winter 2022

Volume 51, Issue 4



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Chapter held an in-person Holiday party at the Westbury Manor. This is the first time the Chapter held such an event in over 5 years. It was more than overdue and well needed. Over 80 of our members came out to celebrate, spread some holiday cheer and find hope in the holidays before the surge of the Omicron variant hit the US shores in Mid-December and January.



We are now seeing the average daily COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continuing to fall in the U.S., an indicator that the omicron variant's hold is weakening across the country.

In New York, the number of cases went down by more than 50% over the last two weeks (AP, 2022) I am cautiously optimistic that the worst is behind us and looking forward to Spring.

This Spring for the first time in three years, we will be holding our Annual Institute in-person on March 16th and 17th at the Uniondale Marriott on Long Island. I am both excited and happy to be back doing in-person events. The chance to reconnect with peers face-to-face, talk over key topics and attend great sessions is invaluable.

Additionally, we will be having our Revenue Cycle academy on March 29th at the Hofstra Club and letting go of the virtual format from the past year.

As my term as President comes to an end, I want to express my great pride in the HFMA New York Chapter. I have truly enjoyed getting to know many of you over the past several years. I want to thank our Corporate Sponsors and members for their continued support during these trying times.

I am very appreciative to the Officers, Board, past presidents, committee chairs, and volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the Chapter.

Finally, I want to offer Cathy Eckbom, President Elect, best wishes for an exciting year ahead.

Thank you and God Bless.

Sean P. Smith President



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Happy 2022! We are just coming out of winter and Mother Nature is keeping us on our toes with the fluctuations in temperature...but there is a light at the end of the tunnel with spring just around the corner.

As tradition dictates, the cover of this edition of Newscast features the Joseph A. Levi 62nd Annual Institute program. This year's Annual Institute was a live event! Although last year's virtual Annual Institute was a rousing success, it was so nice to be able to get together again live at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale. This year's agenda

was packed with educational presentations by national and local healthcare leaders that perfectly match the National HFMA Chairman's 2021 -22 theme, "Bolder Brighter Better." The two-day Institute was a well-attended event with over 300 attendees! The Institute Planning Committee did a great job under Chair, Alyson Belz, FHFMA, Co-Chair, Leah Amante, CRCR and Vice-Chairs, David Woods, MBA, Robin Zeigler, Wendy Leo, FHFMA. Our next Edition of Newscast will include excerpts from the event along with a full photo spread.

The Chapter also held an in-person Holiday party at the Westbury Manor. This event hosted over 80 of our members and a good time was had by all. A photo spread showing the joy and merriment is included in this Edition

In this issue of Newscast we continue our focus on education and present to you two articles of interest from Mazurs - How to Determine the Benefit of an SSI Percentage Recalculation and 2019 Supplemental Security Income Ratios Published. We encourage our members and sponsors to submit articles for publication in Newscast – please forward any articles to aweissmeier@millermilone.com and jbauman@millermilone.com.

We hope that the end of winter leaves you with a feeling of renewal as spring marches forward. Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog's Day and as the legend goes, that means we were in for below-average temperatures for the following six weeks. We are at the tail end and already starting to see signs of spring.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next live event!

Alicia aweissmeier@millermilone.com



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Electronic Publication Date
Article Deadline for Receipt by Editor

5/13/22

4/29/22

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CHAPTER NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming Webinars

March 31, 2022

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

12:00 pm

April 8, 2022 12:00 pm **ECONOMIC UPDATE AND HEALTHCARE IMPACT**

Educational Seminars and Institutes

March 29, 2022 REVENUE CYCLE ACADEMY

Hofstra University Club

April 5, 2022 ICR ROAD SHOW

TBD

July 25, 2022 ANNUAL CHAPTER GOLF CLASSIC

North Hempstead Country Club





HFMA Seminars provide timely, in-depth strategies and metrics to help you keep pace with the healthcare finance topics you care about the most. View all upcoming HFMA Seminars and register at www.hfma.org/seminars.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Included in your HFMA Membership

EDUCATION + NETWORKING

Connecting with your HFMA chapter means you have access to a community of local members for support, knowledge and networking.



From all of us at MetroNY, Welcome.

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

The Metropolitan New York Chapter of HFMA Proudly Welcomes the Following New Members!



By Robin Ziegler, Membership Committee Chair

MetroNY HFMA is pleased to welcome the following new members to our Chapter. We ask our current membership to roll out the red carpet to these new members and help them see for themselves the benefits of HFMA membership. Encourage them to attend seminars and other Chapter events. We ask these new members to consider joining a Committee to not only help the Chapter accomplish its work, but to expand their networks of top notch personal and professional relationships. See the list of MetroNY HFMA Committee Chairs, along with their contact information, listed in this eNewsletter.

NOVEMBER 2021

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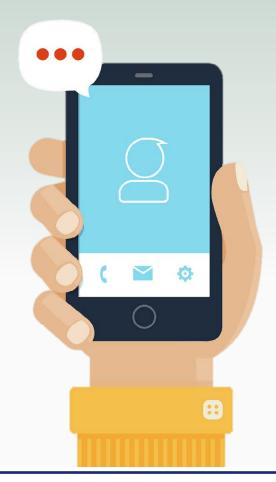


HFMA's Online Membership Directory

Have you visited HFMA's Online Membership Directory lately? Log in at www.hfma.org. When you select "Directory", not only can you search for members of your Chapter, you can also search for all your HFMA colleagues by name, company, and location – regardless of Chapter! Using an online directory instead of a printed directory ensures that you always have the most up-to-date contact information.

It's vital that HFMA has your correct information, so please take a moment to review your record now. By doing so, you'll ensure that HFMA continues to provide you with valuable information and insights that further your success.















2019 Supplemental Security Income Ratios Published

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the latest Supplemental Security Income (SSI) percentages for fiscal year (FY) 2019. Find important information about the publication of percentages below.

Key Information

Applicable Health Care Entities

CMS published SSI data for the following health care entities:

Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) hospitals

Inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs)

Long-term care hospitals (LTCHs) that bill Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for Medicare beneficiaries' services

Resources

You can access the FY 2019 SSI percentages electronically on the CMS website, and the following pages focus on each applicable health care entity:

Ratios specific to IPPS hospitals
Ratios specific to IRF hospitals

Ratios specific to LTCHs

CMS also released a corresponding MLN Matters article-MM12516.

Timing

On November 16, 2021, CMS issued a <u>Change Request</u> (CR) providing technical direction to MACs.

The CR states that Medicare Part A "contractors shall update their IPPS, IRF, and LTCH provider specific files prospectively, within 30 days of the implementation date of this CR, using the latest year's SSI Ratio posted to the CMS website as of the implementation date of this CR, except when explicitly directed otherwise by CMS."

The guidance took effect December 17, 2021.

Data

The SSI data files contain:

The provider number or CMS certification number

Provider name

SSI days

Medicare days

The ratio of days for patients entitled to Medicare Part A attributable to SSI recipients



Methodology for Calculating FY 2019 SSI Ratios

Unlike past years, two separate SSI ratio data files exist for IPPS hospitals; one for hospitals under the Ninth Circuit's jurisdiction—Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington—and one for all others.

According to the CR, SSI ratios for hospitals in the Ninth Circuit jurisdiction "include only 'covered days' in order to reflect the decision of the Ninth Circuit in Empire Health Foundation v. Azar (currently pending before the Court), in order to preliminarily settle cost reports.

For all other hospitals, the methodology for calculating FY 2019 SSI ratios uses total Medicare days, consistent with our existing regulations."

Considerations for Hospitals

Hospitals should keep a few factors in mind based on their classification.

IPPS Hospitals

FY 2019 SSI ratios will generally apply to Medicare cost reports beginning on or after October 1, 2018 and prior to October 1, 2019 for settlement purposes. For IPPS hospitals, this updated data will be used to determine their Medicare Disproportionate Share (DSH) adjustment. For those hospitals that don't share the same fiscal year-end as the federal government—October 1 through September 30—we recommend a review to evaluate if the hospital would benefit from a recalculation.

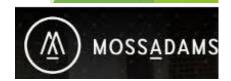
Current CMS regulations allow a hospital to request a recalculation of its Medicare fraction or SSI ratio based on the hospital's cost-reporting period if it's different from the federal fiscal year. Learn more about how to recalculate an SSI percentage here.

IRF Hospitals

IRF hospitals will incorporate the updated percentages into their low-income patient adjustment.

LTCHs

LTCH discharges paid under the short-stay outlier payment adjustment will use updated SSI data.



Protecting SSI Fraction Appeal Rights

We recommend that hospitals not in the Ninth Circuit jurisdiction consult with counsel or their external partner to evaluate the necessity of a protest item for the SSI Fraction to protect the hospital's <u>appeal</u> rights pertaining to this issue. When <u>protesting items</u>, it's important to:

Remember to follow Medicare rules regarding the identification of an issue.

Pursuant to Medicare rules, hospitals must claim an item if the MAC can pay it or protest it if in controversy.

Provide a calculation detailing the amount in controversy including the accumulation of all applicable supporting documentation.

Consult appeals counsel to ensure that you properly preserve your rights to reimbursement on this issue.



Jonathan Mason has worked in health care finance since 2004. He can be reached at

(469) 587-2142 or jonathan.mason@mossadams.com

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The Metropolitan New York Chapter would like to recognize the national Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) for celebrating a major milestone in 2021: 75 years of promoting healthcare finance!





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Local News

Catholic Health scored high marks in US News & World Report's annual report of Best Nursing Homes. Our Lady of Consolation Nursing and Rehabilitation (OLC) received a score of 5 out of 5, one out of 44 locations to do so. OLC was rated excellent for their long-term care program having a minimal number of patient emergency department visits and for being above average in hospital readmissions. Catholic Health's St. Catherine of Siena Nursing & Rehabilitation and Good Samaritan Nursing Rehabilitation earned "high-performing" rating for short-term and long-term care respectively.

Stony Brook University Hospital was named an Accreta Center of Excellence by The Maternal Safety Foundation. They were recognized for their ability to provide superior care for the lifethreatening childbirth complication called placenta accreta spectrum disorder, a condition where the placenta attaches itself too deeply and firmly to the uterus and is unable to detach which can cause severe blood loss.

Northwell Health was ranked No. 3 among the 10 most innovative health companies of 2022 on Fast Company's "World's Most Innovative Company's for 2022". Some of the notable innovations Northwell Health was recognized for include converting bi-level positive airway pressure machines into ventilators for COVID-19 patients when ventilators were in short supply, and awarding funds to four employees for their projects in their fifth Innovation Challenge – the two winning projects were a 3D imaging device to advance care delivery to provide early detection of various pressure injuries and a high-intensity ultrasound simulation of the spleen to treat bleeding disorders.

NYU Langone has opened a 195,000 sq ft Women's Health and Wellness multispecialty outpatient care center on East 53rd St in NYC. The center spans 5 clinical floors, has approximately 100 patient exam rooms, seven state-of-the-art procedure suites, and 75 providers from more than a dozen clinical specialty areas. Patients will have access to routine and specialty care, educational programs, outpatient surgical procedures in obstetrics and gynecology, primary care and internal medicine, advanced diagnostic and imaging services, and mental health.

Langone Health are officially affiliated, having received state and federal regulatory approvals. NYU Langone Health System is now the active parent of Long Island Community Hospital, which created a clinically integrated healthcare network. This affiliation extends NYU Langone's network into eastern Long Island. Richard Margulis, president and CEO of Long Island Community Hospital, will continue to lead the organization.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is establishing a multi-specialty ambulatory care facility in White **Plains** featuring care from ColumbiaDoctors clinical teams. This facility will give patients convenient access to increasingly indemand specialties for adults and children, and will be located in the former WestPark office complex which is situated on a 25-acre campus at 1111-1129 Westchester Avenue in White Plains. They plan to offer outpatient services in areas ranging from women's health to cancer care and neuroscience, wellness services and resources, and facilities including imaging, endoscopy suites. exam and diagnostic rooms, and ambulatory procedure rooms.

To submit news items to be included in an upcoming edition of NEWSCAST, send information by email to aweissmeier@millermilone.com

How to Determine the Benefit of an SSI Percentage Recalculation

As a primary component of Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) reimbursement, a hospital's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) percentage plays a significant role in determining the reimbursement impact. Hospitals should research annually whether their facility could benefit from an SSI percentage recalculation, also known as an SSI recalculation, realignment, or redetermination. If this hasn't been historically or consistently reviewed, it's recommended that hospitals perform a look back through their SSI data.

What is the SSI Fraction?

Also referred to as the Medicare fraction of the Medicare DSH calculation, the SSI fraction represents the percent of patient days for beneficiaries who are eligible for both Medicare Part A and Part C and SSI.



By default, SSI fractions are based on the federal fiscal year (FFY) end—October 1 to September 30—and are generally published annually by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

This concept makes sense for providers whose cost reporting period mirrors the federal fiscal year, but what about providers with cost reporting periods that differ from the September 30 FFY end?

<u>Current CMS regulations</u> allow a hospital to request its Medicare fraction or SSI ratio be recalculated or realigned based on the hospital's cost reporting period when it's different from the federal fiscal year.

In practice, if a hospital's fiscal year-end is December 31, 2018, the September 30, 2018, SSI ratio would be used in the Medicare Disproportionate Share calculation. According to the CMS regulations mentioned above, the SSI ratio could be recalculated to mirror the hospital's fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2018, and ending December 31, 2018, by using a MOSSADAMS

combination of two federal fiscal years of the Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) file.

Both the <u>September 30, 2018</u>, and the <u>September 30, 2019</u>, <u>SSI</u> ratio data would need to be analyzed to determine the hospital fiscal year <u>SSI</u> ratio. The <u>2019</u> SSI ratio data was published by CMS back in November 2021.

Determining Benefit

It's a common misconception that stakeholders can attempt to estimate if they benefit from an SSI ratio redetermination by identifying provider fiscal years where their SSI percentage increased year over year. However, patient-level detail must be obtained and analyzed to accurately calculate and prepare a request for an SSI percentage redetermination from federal fiscal year to hospital fiscal year.

Once requested, hospitals must use the recalculated SSI percentage for the requested fiscal year. If a redetermination isn't analyzed properly, it could actually harm the hospital by decreasing reimbursement.

Data Required

CMS mines SSI patient detail data from MedPAR—a maintained record set that contains inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) billing records for all Medicare beneficiaries who received inpatient hospital services. It's this patient detail that should be analyzed to properly determine the effects of a redetermination.

Let's establish another quick example. Hospital A's fiscal year-end is June 30, 2018. Traditionally, the September 30, 2017, SSI percentage would be used in the Medicare DSH calculation. However, since CMS regulations allow for an SSI redetermination, a recalculated SSI percentage would use a combination of data from the September 30, 2017, and September 30, 2018, routine use files that cover the months included in the hospital's cost reporting year.

Data Analysis

While the concept of requesting an SSI percentage redetermination seems fairly simple, hospitals should be aware the process contains many steps including data reconciliation. Verification of the published SSI percentage is always a recommended first step which can be accomplished by reconciling the routine-use, patient-level data.



When reviewing the routine-use data, providers should also be aware of the potential impact of Medicare Advantage days; the <u>Allina Health Services v. Sebelius decision</u> of the Supreme Court of the United States could have implications on what data should ultimately be included in your SSI percentage.

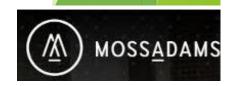
These are just a couple of data scrubbing procedures that must be completed prior to requesting an SSI redetermination. After all data scrubbing measures are performed, if your recalculated SSI percentage is found to be higher than the CMS-published SSI percentage for your hospital and fiscal year, then you could benefit from a recalculation and should prepare a redetermination request.



Michael Newell has worked in health care financial management since 1982. Michael can be reached at

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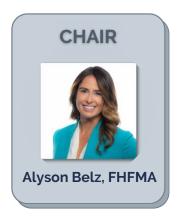
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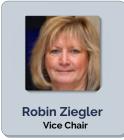
Planning Committee

Thank you to the 2022 Annual Institute Planning Committee!











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Nurse Heroes

Joseph A. Levi 62nd Annual Institute Gives Back!



The HFMA Metropolitan NY Chapter is Proud to Support Nurse Heroes – Your Donation Can Help Create a Future Without a Shortage of Nurses.

We face a rapidly accelerating shortage of nurses around the world. If nothing changes within three years, we will have a shortage of 1 million nurses in the United States.

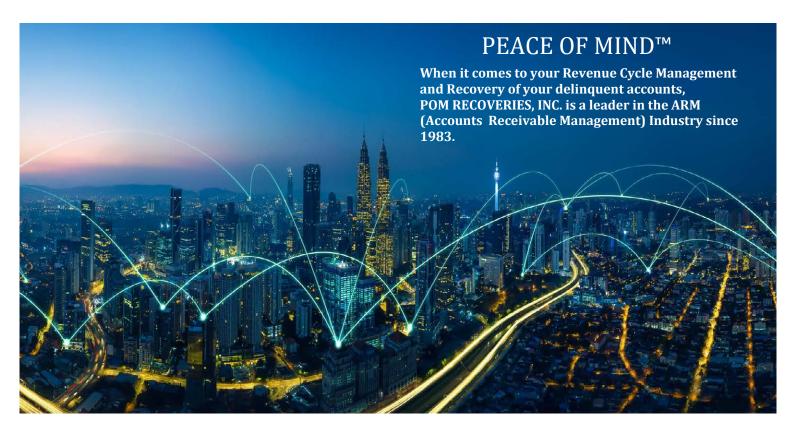
Motivated philanthropists and celebrities, including Oprah Winfrey, Céline Dion and Gloria Estefan, and many others have joined forces have joined forces to help create a future without a shortage of nurses by establishing 'Nurse Heroes' and funding scholarships to train the next generation of nurses and nurse practitioners.

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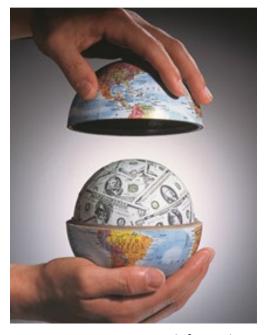
- 1. Scholarships to train nurses
- 2. Scholarships to train nurse practitioners
- Funding for nurse educators and continuing professional development
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Metropolitan New York Chapter HFMA Marvin Rushkoff Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Member in good standing with National HFMA and Metro NY Chapter.
- Must be a Member or spouse or dependent of a member.
- Must be attending an accredited college or university.
- Must provide proof of acceptance.
- Must be a matriculated student.

By January 1st each year the Marvin Rushkoff Scholarship application will be posted to the Chapter's website. Applications must be delivered in complete form and received by the designated committee chair on or before June 1 to be considered for award. Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships are awarded on an annual basis to qualified applicants. Awards are for one year only and require a new application each year to be considered for the scholarship.

Congratulations

Emma McDonald 2021 Scholarship Winner.



- **Members of the Metropolitan NY Chapter HFMA, spouse and/or dependents are eligible to apply
- ** Members of the Executive Committee/their dependents and spouses are not eligible.
- **Members of the Evaluating Committee/their dependents and spouses are not eligible.

Metropolitan New York Chapter HFMA Marvin Rushkoff Scholarship

The Metropolitan NY Chapter of HFMA is pleased to announce the reinstatement of our chapter scholarship award. The scholarship is as outlined below:

There will be two (2) \$1,000 scholarships awarded each year to qualified applicants.

Eligibility Requirement:

Members of the Metropolitan NY Chapter HFMA, spouse and dependents of member of Metro NY Chapter. The member must be in good standing with National HFMA and the Chapter. Member in good standing is defined as a member whose dues are current or is identified as a member in transition with National HFMA and has NO outstanding AR with the Metro NY Chapter.

Must be attending an accredited college or university and show proof of acceptance.

Must be a matriculated student

Application will be posted to the website by January 1st of each year and must be received by the designated committee chair on or before June 1st of each year. Only completed applications will be accepted and considered for award.

Announcement of winner(s) will be contacted by the Executive board and the winners will be published in the nearest Newscast publication.

Awards are for one year only and will require a new application each year to be considered for the scholarship.

Members of the Executive Committee / their dependents and spouses are NOT eligible. Members of the evaluating committee/ their dependents and spouses are NOT eligible.

Evaluation of Application:

The committee chair will receive all applications.

The evaluating committee will consist of the scholarship chair, co-chair and executive committee. The scholarship chair and co-chair will refrain from voting, the executive committee will be the voting members and winner(s) will be chosen by majority.

Applications will be weighted based on the following criteria:

| Essay | 60% |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Community/Professional Experience | 25% |
| Field of Study | 10% |
| GPA of most recent semester completed | 5% |

The committee will meet to set criteria within each category in order to weight each application fairly and evenly.

Metropolitan New York Healthcare Financial Management Association Marvin Rushkoff Scholarship Application

Application MUST be received on or before June 1st Applications will be accepted via mail or by email

| HFMA Member Inform | ation: | | | |
|---|--|----------------|------------------|--------|
| Member Name: | | | | |
| Member Address: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Applicant Information | <u>.</u> | | | |
| Applicant Name: | | | | |
| Address: | | | | |
| Relationship to Membe | er: | Emai | l Address | |
| College/University Atte (Proof of Enrollment m | ending: ust be attached) | | | |
| Matriculated Student: | Yes No | Anticipated (| Graduation Date: | |
| Major (if known) | | | | |
| Anticipated Degree: | Undergraduate: Graduate: Masters in _ PhD: | | | |
| Does your employer su | pplement your educatio | n with tuition | reimbursement: | Yes No |
| Education Background | <u>!</u> | | | |
| Highest Level of Educat | cion Completed as of app | olication: | | |
| Name of School Curren | tly Attending: | | | |
| GPA: | | | Major: | |
| as of last completed se | mester) (ie: high sc | hool diploma) | (if applicable) | 1 |

Documentation must be provided supporting GPA

Professional Career/ Work Experience:

Employment history to be attached and labeled as attachment: A

Community and Professional Activities:

Please describe your civic and professional activities and contributions to your community, profession, HFMA or other organizations. Attach and label as attachment: B

Essay

In 350 words or less submit an essay describing your education and or professional goals and how this scholarship will assist you in achieving such goals. **Essay must be typed and double spaced**.

References:

Please furnish three letters of reference. Please submit these letters with your application do not have them submitted under separate cover. Remember only fully completed applications will be considered for scholarship.

| Applicants Signature: | Date: | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| | | |

All applications must be received on or before June 1st

Return application to: Cindy Strain, FHFMA c/o Island Pulmonary Associates, PC 4271 Hempstead Turnpike Bethpage, NY 11714 Attn: HFMA Scholarship

Or via email to: cynthia.strain@nyulangone.org

Receipt of application will be provided via email only.

App Updated: 01.23.2020



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THE VALUE OF CERTIFICATION

Many healthcare organizations in today's challenging economy recognize their workforce as their most valuable asset. As such, these organizations tend to hold workforce development as a primary business strategy.

Investment in developing the talents, knowledge and skill sets of staff is critical to organization success. HFMA's Healthcare Financial Pulse research identified this dynamic and noted that successful organizations today commit to the "bread and butter" of financial management, i.e. technically strong and comprehensive financial management.

Likewise, many individual financial managers today recognize the importance of assuming personal responsibility for their career's success. More than ever before, individuals understand the importance of acquiring and maintaining comprehensive skill sets to ensure their ability to provide the financial management demanded today. These individuals frequently seek out relevant professional development opportunities.

The larger business environment resulting from these forces is a heightened interest in workforce development initiatives including certifications and credentialing. Credentialing programs have exploded across the past couple of decades and include:

- Professional associations offering certifications
- Community colleges offering curriculum-based certificates
- Corporate sponsored in-house credentials for employees

 Technology companies providing proprietary credentials to customers

HFMA certification provides a fundamental business service to our industry, namely HFMA certification offers:

- Assessment of job-related competency
- The opportunity for an individual to demonstrate skills and knowledge
- Independent verification of the skills and knowledge
- Confirmation that an individual is current in the practice field

The value of HFMA certification can be seen in several reported "value-adds":

- Increased departmental cooperation
- Heightened self-confidence among participants
- Increased performance against selected metrics
- Verification of staff knowledge and skills
- Assistance in structuring career paths

HFMA is committed to being the indispensable resource that defines, realizes and advances healthcare financial management practice. As such, HFMA provides professional certifications to achieve this purpose in today's business environment. This makes HFMA Certification a smart workforce investment strategy.

For more information on HFMA Certification, visit

http://www.hfma.org/certification/



Looking to get involved but not sure where to start? Committees often have opportunities to help with specific tasks throughout the year. Please contact the Committee Chair of any committee that is of interest to you – we are always looking for more helping hands!



COMMITTEES 2021-2022

| COMMITTEE NAME | CHAIR | CO-CHAIR | VICE CHAIR 1 | VICE CHAIR 2 | VICE CHAIR 3 |
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| ADVISORY COUNCIL | Donna Skura dskura@ehs.org (718) 869-8539 | Diane McCarthy, CPA, FHFMA dimccart@ehs.org (718) 869-8525 | Mario Di Figlia, FHMFA mdifiglia@northwell.edu (516) 876-1386 | Maryann Regan Maryann.Regan@ stonybrookmedicine.edu (631) 723-2160 x127 | David Woods dwoods@nyee.edu (212) 256-3701 |
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COMMITTEES 2021-2022

| COMMITTEE NAME | CHAIR | CO-CHAIR | VICE CHAIR 1 | VICE CHAIR 2 | VICE CHAIR 3 |
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COMMITTEES 2021-2022

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