



KANSAS MGMA

The Newsletter of the Kansas Medical Group Management Association

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March 1998

Message from the President

www.kmgma.com????

Re: Internet, e-mail, bulletin boards and Friday afternoon at the conference....

The KMGMA Board has continued to explore the possibilities for a proprietary KMGMA web site with e-mail and a secured bulletin board. The e-mail capability would allow for a directory of members to facilitate quick addressing and easy communications. The bulletin board would allow for a private area to ask questions and receive answers/opinions. We believe that a private bulletin board will foster a convenient dialogue forum.

We are talking with two companies interested in providing this service. Their proposals should be ready by our spring conference and I anticipate bringing forth a proposal to the membership at the business meeting. While advertising likely could pay for this service, we will probably ask for a financial commitment from the membership to ensure a rapid start-up. Stay tuned for this exciting development.

While planning the spring conference, we decided to respond to those of you wanting to end the conference shortly after noon on Friday. As a result, as you read the printed conference agenda, you will notice that you are free after lunch on Friday. We are trying this format for the spring conference and want to hear your opinions. Please seek out a KMGMA officer at the conference and let us know. **Have a great Spring!!!**



Michael Samms

Annual Screening a New Mammography Benefit under Medicare

adapted from the Medical Group Management Update

Breast cancer is a major health risk for female patient. This article focuses on the new Medicare mammography regulations that, beginning 1-1-98, include coverage of annual mammography screenings for Medicare beneficiaries over the age of 40. It is incumbent on physicians and other health care professionals to understand this new benefit, so that patients can take advantage of expanded access to this preventive service.

Previously, women older than 64 years of age or ages 40-49 without identified risk factors were only covered for screening mammograms every 48 months.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, amends Medicare Part B to provide for annual screening mammography for women 40 years of age and older, and it also waives the Part B deductible. Women between the ages of 35-39 are covered for one screening mammogram. Over the age of 39, mammograms are covered provided that 11 full months have passed since the month in which the previous screening mammogram was performed.

For a copy of the complete article, contact Rachel at 316-689-9599.

'98 bLUeS

from the Editor

I couldn't do red on one more issue. I just couldn't.

There aren't many big decisions to make as newsletter chairperson. Although font size, font type, and font width do tax my brain much of time, I thought it was time for an additional decision to be made. Changing the ink. Heck, why not change the paper, too.

Variety is the spice of life, right? Any suggestions for more variety in the KMGMA newsletter, please fax me at 316-689-9220 or e-mail to rachel@wichitaclinic.com

THANKS!



Got Rural Health on Your Mind?

Attend the pre-conference pow-wow

by Jim Knight

The Rural Health Clinics membership will have a meeting and get-together on the Wednesday evening preceding the spring conference.

The purpose of the meeting will be to meet others who are members of organizations having rural health clinics and to hear about current issues.

This year's pre-conference meeting will start at 8 pm in the Sedgewick Room of the hotel rather than 7 pm as it has in the past. The reason for this change is two fold: allow members who drive many miles more time to travel to the meeting and to allow those involved in other pre-conference activities (golf, insurance committee, executive committee) more flexibility.

The members of this year's Rural Health Clinics committee are:

Jim Knight, chairperson (Garden Medical Clinic, Garden City)

Lynn Adams (Medical Services Corporation, Hayes)

Vicki Dirks (Scott City Clinic, Scott City)

Ray Frigon (Clay Center Family Physicians, Clay Center)

Shirley Gamble (Medical Center, Hutchinson)

Larry Ganje (Oberlin Medical Arts, Oberlin)

Clara Hocker (El Dorado Clinic, El Dorado)

These individuals are the facilitators and coordinators for communication to the KMGMA members who have a relationship or interest in the rural health program.

All KMGMA members with such an interest are welcome to the Wednesday pre-conference meeting.

Quick Tips

• **Cut it short.** Through your posture and gestures, you may be unwittingly encouraging long-winded colleagues who don't know when to draw the line on workplace chitchat. Maintain an alert, almost stiff stance that says "I have things to do." Keep work items in hand, and be pleasant but professional.

• **Can't use can't.** The word can't is very distasteful to many people. If you aren't able to do something for a customer or colleague, explain why it's not possible. Then shift your focus to what you can do to meet needs.

• **Wake-up call.** Give your coworkers a great start to a new day or week. First thing in the morning, send them a motivational voice-mail or e-mail message. Praise their efforts in a project or just wish them a "Happy Monday!" You're certain to get a smile out of almost everyone. A positive frame of mind is good for working conditions.



Who Dun it?

Solving the mystery of who killed Perky Polly McIntosh promises to keep you entertained and leave you with fun memories. So don't forget to try out the Thursday evening social event during the Spring Conference.

Here's a clip of the fun:

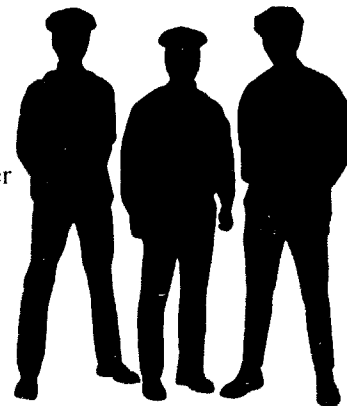
....Thousands of people tuned in every day to see her smiling face on the top-rated local morning show **San Diego Wake-Up Call**.

It seemed everyone loved Polly. Well, not everyone.

As Polly's popularity grew, so did her desire for a larger audience. In her quest to obtain more fame and fortune she apparently alienated a few people along the way. --- Something no KMGMA member would ever think of doing.

While taping the show in front of a live audience, Polly keeled over, face first, into a bowl of her favorite preserves.

So catch the trolley at 5:15 or 5:30 p.m. on Thursday evening and enjoy dinner and an intriguing murder mystery. Come casual, but come suspicious. The murderer could be among us.



New Members

by Karen Haas, Membership Chair

To date, we have 26 new members with several applications in the review process as we speak.

We were never able to locate the lost member badges, therefore, the Board of KMGMA has approved new badges. Their arrival date should be prior to the Spring Conference.

Please keep in mind that during the Fall Conference, KMGMA will appoint a successor to replace my two year term as Membership Chairperson. Remember, if you are interested, please contact me early, as this distinguished position could be filled and you will miss the wonderful opportunity to serve the KMGMA Board and members.

Please welcome the following individuals who have recently joined our association.

Julie Barber - Wichita/Allied
Robert E. Baum - Wichita
Jody Benning - Wichita
Tracy Bird - Shawnee Mission
Kevin Black - Overland Park
Kathleen Blanding - Shawnee Mission
Virgil Bourne - Shawnee Mission
Mary Ann Childress - Topeka
Debra Davidson - Pittsburg
Michael Derosseau - Concordia
Bradley Deutsch - Wichita
Lori Dowdle - Shawnee Mission
Cathy Dunham - Guymon OK/Allied
Steven Hughes - Shawnee Mission
Arthur Jones - Wichita
Ricky Jones - Chanute
James Lockhart - Wichita/Allied
Merri Michaels - Emporia
Myra Shum - Onaga
Rosann Speer - Shawnee Mission
Judith Timken - Hugoton
Fredrick Titze - Kansas City MO
Kim Weidner - Wichita
Darrell Wilson - Salina

News from MGMA

Uniform credentialing form clears another hurdle

(MGMUpdate, 3-1-98)

By Brad Dunevitz, M.S. / MGMA Communications Writer

DENVER — The evolution of a uniform core credentialing form for physicians advanced another step when the MGMA/CRAHCA board of directors, at its meeting here Jan. 30-31, approved the development of an assessment survey for use by medical group practices.

A nationally accepted, uniform credentialing form would eliminate information redundancy, simplify the credentialing process and improve the efficiency of health care delivery, said Patricia L. Brewster, FACMPE, who represents MGMA on the Core Data Collection Forum. Brewster is regional director, Hughston Clinic, Atlanta, and president, American College of Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE), professional development and credentialing arm of MGMA.

An assessment survey, which will be developed by MGMA and its research arm, the Center for Research in Ambulatory Health Care Administration (CRAHCA), will test the validity of the form's elements through four venues — medical group practices, hospital systems, medical society verification organizations and large managed care insurers, Brewster said. MGMA/CRAHCA staff will develop the survey instrument, and test markets are being identified.

Group practices would benefit by filling out just one credentialing form for managed care contracts and hospital privileges. The forms usually require detailed information about providers, such as education, training, professional practices, academic appointments, licensure, references and CPR certifications. However, a standardized form can be filled out once, entered into a database and copied or updated when needed, Brewster said.

The initial assessment survey will capture testers' needs and identify the validity of each section of the form.

"We need to know the type of format that will encourage customers to fill it out," Brewster said. "Are there time constraints to completing it? Did we miss any elements or a vital piece of information? The assessment survey will answer these questions."

The Core Data Collection Forum's catalyst was the Medical Society Credentials Verification Organizations of America (MSCVOA). MGMA is among several stakeholders in MSCVDA.



Two sure things -- taxes and insurance...

A friendly reminder

Get your taxes in the mail on time and then join us for an evening meeting of the Insurance and Legislative Committees on Wednesday, April 15th at 7 p.m. We will meet in the Topeka Room at the Marriott.

Database information update

If your database information has changed, please complete this form & send it to the address below:

From:

To:

Send to:

**ANN BUESS
WICHITA CLINIC
3311 E MURDOCK / WICHITA KS 67208
FAX: 316-689-9102**

1997 - 1998

Committee Chairpersons

Interested in serving on a committee?

Call the chairs below:

Human Resources - Maggie Mullins (316) 669-6690
Insurance - Jim Bruey (316) 689-9162
Legislative Affairs - Jo Marsh (316) 688-3147
Membership - Karen Haas (316) 261-3280
Newsletter - Rachel McPhail (316) 689-9599
Public Relations - Coquette O'Rourke (316) 291-7250
Rural Health Care - Jim Knight (316) 275-3700

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President - Michael Samms (816) 276-9270
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1st Vice President - Kim Weaver (316) 263-5891
2nd Vice President - Deanna Chilton (316) 291-7286
Secretary - Jinny Freeman (913) 843-9125
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Past President - Steve Perkins (316) 689-9315

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