

THE SUMMIT

MountainWest Chapter

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Presidents Message

WRITTEN BY KATIE HARWOOD, CRCE-I
UTAH MOUNTAIN WEST PRESIDENT

As I write this, bits of snow are falling with the sun trying to come out behind the clouds. Typical Utah weather! March continues to move forward, and before we know it, summer will be here. There is a lot of hope in my family that we may soon be able to get back to the comfort of routines, and I wish the same for everyone reading this newsletter.

In other news, the National Board met on March 16, 2021. We reviewed the final membership and certification numbers for 2020. Of note, the membership in our chapter was up from 84 to 96 as compared to this time last year. As of now, all national events are still planned to be virtual, including Legislative day and the ANI.

A legislative day is planned for June 22-24, and by its virtual nature, we should be able to have more of our local members participate since travel is not required. The education committee is actively engaged in planning those events, and I hope to have information to share soon. In our last virtual conference held March 19, I enjoyed seeing a variety of faces join and hearing voices other than my own contribution to the dialogue. Your local board is working hard to plan events over the next year, and we look forward to seeing you at the next ZOOM gathering on April 15th! Please feel free to reach out with requests of what you may find beneficial to continue your professional growth and development.

Take care and be kind to yourself!



Helping everyone understand Medicare

Many of us are insured by Medicare, in fact, almost anyone 65 years of age and older is! Medicare is a federally funded program that not only serves us but serves those of us with certain disabilities too. Many of our customers are not aware of the eligibility or even what this insurer can do for them. As a leader in the healthcare industry, it is our duty to ensure they are informed. Here are some key points to help with those conversations:

Who is eligible for Medicare?

You are eligible to receive Medicare benefits beginning the first day of the month in which you turn 65. For example, if you turn 65 on December 15, you can begin using your Medicare benefits on December 1. If you are under 65 and have certain disabilities or end-stage renal disease, you may also be eligible for Medicare.

What does Medicare cover?

- Part A: Covers inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facilities, and hospice care.
- Part B: Covers outpatient care in physician's offices and hospitals, home health care, durable medical equipment, and some preventive services.
- Part C: This is a Medicare Advantage Plan. These plans are in replacement of original Medicare, are typically HMOs, and cover the same services as Part A and Part B. Most also include prescription drug coverage. Medicare Advantage Plans are run by private insurance companies that have been approved by Medicare.
- Part D: Prescription drug coverage. Private insurance companies also offer these plans.

What are the costs?

As a Medicare beneficiary, you will have out-of-pocket costs such as premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-payments. Premiums are the monthly payments made to an insurance company to keep coverage active. Most people will not have to pay premiums for Part A because they or their spouses have paid Medicare taxes for at least 10 years while working. Parts B, C, and D do come with a monthly premium you must pay.

In addition to the monthly premiums, each Medicare component comes with its own deductible, co-insurance, and co-payments. Part A deductibles work a little differently compared to other health insurance plans. The Part A deductible is charged to the patient for each benefit period, not the year. A benefit period begins the day you are admitted to a hospital or skilled nursing facility and ends when you have been out for 60 consecutive days. While most health plans have one deductible to be met each year, with Part A you could pay the deductible more than once a year.

Typically, Part B will pay 80 percent of the allowed amount of the treatment and you will be responsible for the other 20 percent along with a yearly deductible.

Medicare Advantage plans set their own cost-sharing terms and vary widely depending on the plan. Some may charge a flat rate per hospitalization up to a set number of days. Other plans may charge a co-payment or co-insurance amount for each day in the hospital.

You can also encourage your patients to research online or to visit a local broker to understand their options if their employer does not offer healthcare coverage.



MEDICARE

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY
BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**



**Submission DUE
June 30, 2021**

Review scholarship application
and guidelines
<https://aahammtnwest.org/>

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Administrative Management

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Sam.fajri@hsc.utah.edu
For more information

Join us June 22-24 for the AAHAM 2021 Virtual Legislative Day

Healthcare Needs Your Voice More Today Than Ever
Before

Visit www.aaHAM.org to learn more

2021 Legislative Day

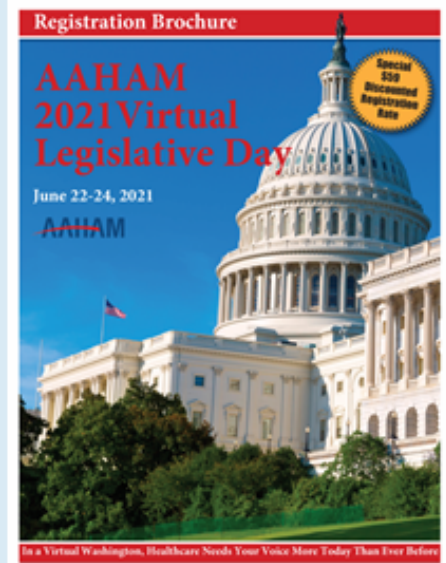
The 2021 Virtual Legislative Day will be June 22-24

The effect of COVID-19 continues to hit the healthcare sector hard. AAHAM members continue to be on the frontline fighting for their patients. Throughout 2020 and still today, Congress is still trying to understand the impacts of this virus across the healthcare system. We cannot expect them to know every issue or understand every issue that comes across their desk. This is why AAHAM's virtual Legislative Day may be the most important meeting you attend this year on behalf of your hospital.

Today we are dealing with a government that is doing business virtually. It's hard enough during "normal" times to get your message across to your elected leaders. Now factor in the disconnect of legislating virtually and you will understand just how important the AAHAM virtual Legislative Day is this year. This is an opportunity for us to connect with members of Congress and their staff and share with them the direct impacts COVID-19 has had on your hospital. It's an opportunity for you to share with them exactly how the 2020 COVID relief healthcare provisions, while well intentioned, are going to have negative impacts on hospitals. It's your opportunity to let your elected leaders know what your hospital needs.

With even more competition for the time of our leaders because of the virtual world we live in, the more important it is for AAHAM to stand out. It is critical that our voice is heard. With so many special interests seeking relief, it is our opportunity to make sure our voice is heard and our hospitals have a seat at the table when it comes to deciding how to spend the future COVID relief packages.

AAHAM's top priorities this year include Prior Authorization and Patient Financial Advocates.



[Legislative Day Information](#)

[Registration Brochure](#)

[Online Member Registration](#)

[Downloadable Registration Form](#)

[Sponsorship Information](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.AAHAM.ORG/HOME.ASPX](https://www.aaHAM.org/home.aspx)

GET CERTIFIED

SIGN UP NOW!



4/15/21: REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR JULY 2021 EXAMS
7/19/21-7/30/21: JULY 2021 EXAMS

8/16/21 REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR NOV 2021 EXAMS
11/8/21-11/19/21: NOVEMBER 2021 EXAMS

12/15/21: REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2022 EXAMS



LET'S GIVE A BIG SHOUT OUT FOR NEWLY CERTIFIED
MOUNTAIN WEST AAHAM MEMBER

SUSAN MAHLER

CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING CRCE DURING NOV-JAN EXAM

2021
BOARD
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Sam El Fajri

Margaret Zdunich

Tapu Fonoti

Miguel Garay-Carson

Teleisia Lelea

Meet the board of 2021
We will be highlighting
through the year!



Adrienne Christiansen

Secretary

How long have you been a member?

Over 10 years

Why did you join AAHAM?

A way to stay up to date with the current healthcare revenue cycle and access information. It is also fun!

Favorite Way to spend a day off?

Not waking up to an alarm and embracing what the day brings.

Favorite book and why?

I have too many favorite books to choose just one!

Where is your favorite vacation place?

Florida! I have family there and I love to visit.

What is your spirit animal and why?

A liger. It's pretty much my favorite animal. It's like a lion and a tiger mixed.. Bred for its skills in magic (haha-do you know the movie that is from?)

What is something on your Bucketlist?

A trip to Iceland.



Shauna Wardrop

Board Director

How long have you been a member?

31 years

Why did you join AAHAM?

To enhance my knowledge of the hospital Revenue Cycle which in turn help enhance my growth opportunities with my job.

Favorite Way to spend a day off?

Either working on projects around the house or yard with my husband or with family playing (camping and all that goes with that)

Where is your favorite vacation place?

Lake Powell (UT/AZ)

Favorite book and why?

Oh wow, I love books so hard to pick a favorite, so I am going to say I love Historical Fiction books because I love the fact that I could go to these places and walk-in those areas, especially World War II or early 20th Century era. But I also love autobiographies or people's stories.

Favorite Quote?

My Mantra: is choose your happy! -Quote: "it isn't what you have, or who you are, or where you are, or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about"-Dale Carnegie.

What is something on your Bucketlist?

To drive and criss-cross the country and back visiting a unique site in every state. Internationally to visit Scotland and Ireland.



Margaret Zdunich

Board Member

How long have you been a member?

Since September 2020

Why did you join AAHAM?

I joined AAHAM because I had attended some lunch & learns and the St. George conference several times as a non-member and found them to be very interesting. I liked the topics and information that were provided. I had wanted to join for a while when I was approached about possible serving on the board, I became an AAHAM member at that time.

Favorite Way to spend a day off?

I love to go to rock shows, it is one of my most favorite things to do. I like working in my yard and flower garden, even though I don't think I am really great at it. We built a new home a few years ago and have had to put the yard in, which has been very overwhelming, but fun at the same time.

Where is your favorite vacation place?

Two of my daughter live in St George. I love to go there several times a year to see them, the red rocks are so beautiful.

What is one thing that would instantly make your day better?

Being surprised with my favorite coffee. Hanging out with my grandkids instantly makes my day better.

What is your spirit animal and why?

My spirit animal is a dog. They love unconditionally and are always excited to see their parents, regardless of how long it has been. I love how they are so loyal.

What is something on your Bucketlist?

To take a vacation to Australia

Upcoming Events



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SESSION 3

*Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the
Workplace.*

**APRIL 16TH | 8:00 AM-
9:30 AM
ZOOM**



LUNCH & LEARN



**MAY 20TH | 12:30 PM
ZOOM**

LEARN MORE AT
[HTTP://AAHAMMTNWEST.ORG/EVENTS/](http://AAHAMMTNWEST.ORG/EVENTS/)





BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED



OPEN DAILY

Mon & Fri

7:30 AM-2:30 PM

Tue, Wed, & Thur

8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Sandy Facility

9786 Sandy Parkway 500 W
Sandy, UT 84070

Research Park Facility

565 Komas Dr. (Building 560)
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

The approximate time donating whole blood takes about 30 minutes , or platelet donations can be completed in about two hours.





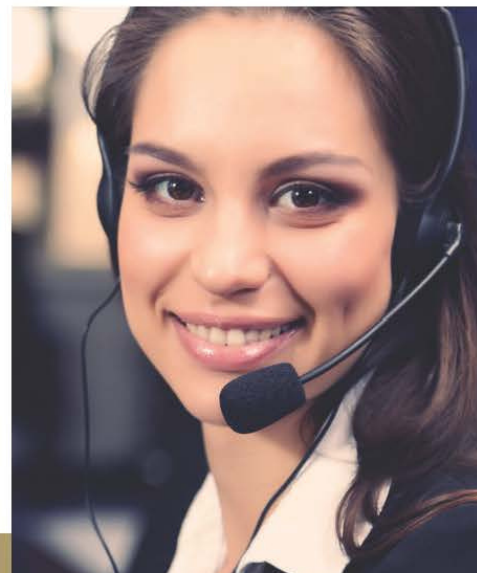
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Check out our White Paper on
Compassionate Advocacy

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and achieve greater collection potential*

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