

THE SUMMIT

MountainWest Chapter

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Presidents Message

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

Greetings to all!

As we work our way through a hot summer, a few updates about what has been going on.

Virtual Legislative Day was a success with eight of our chapter members in attendance! We were able to schedule meetings with legislative assistants to Senators Mitt Romney, Mike Lee, and Representatives John Curtis, Burgess Owens. I learned more about the positions that AAHAM has on Prior Authorization standardization and the Medical Debt Relief Act (S.355-Covid19) proposed bill that would limit Patients Financial Advocates' ability to support patient's navigating the complexity of their financial liabilities. In 2022 the board will be planning a state legislative event- more information to come!

Education events are planned for August, September, and October during our Virtual lunch and learn session. We are planning a joint meeting with HFMA in October or November focused on our Women's Professional series. I am sure some of you may be wondering when we will resume in-person events. That is still to be determined, but no earlier than next calendar year. Let's cross our fingers that the Covid resurgence comes under control soon.

The annual Scholarship did not receive any applications and therefore was not awarded to anyone. The board is planning on developing a scholarship that can be awarded for Certification. We will plan on having more information by the Fall newsletter.

As always, the board and I want to hear from you! Please feel free to reach out if you would like specific education topics or need professional networking support.

Stay cool and Healthy!



PAYOR'S GONE WILD

Excerpt from our upcoming speaker on October 21, 2021
Day Egusquiza



Why Designated Diagnostic Providers?

It is exciting to be teaching this 'never-a-dull-moment' new class to many professional organizations – mostly virtual but some are baby-stepping back to safe-distancing live. (Note: What a grand opportunity to incorporate BOTH -a hybrid meeting! Think of many healthcare professionals you can reach thru desk-top ed/would never get approval to travel for ed! Now the mission of outreach educational can truly be met. And we know how!! The silver lining of the Pandemic.) Hottest classes right now: “Payer’s Gone Wild”, “Attacking Medicare Advantage Denials – Taking Your Power Back” and the long-time favorite: “Inpt vs Obs - why is it so hard PLUS Total joint anguish – it is all about the 2 MN rule” Yes we teach to individual providers too)

United Healthcare – I need to take a breath now
Designated Diagnostic Provider – delayed for lab until 7-1-21. Look for United to expand to imaging in 2022 - CT, MRI, PET, Nuclear Med.

After participating in the GA HFMA Payer Panels, the United rep sent me some handout material. Interesting reading. But one of the most important paragraphs:

Why Designated Diagnostic Providers? We are continuing our work toward the Triple Aim of better care, better health, and lower costs for United Healthcare members. DDP benefit designs are intended to maximize member benefits for lab services and ensure laboratory services are performed by providers that meet both efficiency and quality requirements. (WOW – means??)

For the provider – a new set of United-specific codes are added to the 837/UB for submission. Even if you are already a participating provider/contracted, you must also have this designation.

It is expected the payment rate for Lab will be different than it was as simply a contracted provider. Have you completed the required paperwork with United? Have you looked at the IT costs to prepare the charge master with United-specific codes in addition to CPT/HCPC? Wow! We would continue to recommend you PUSH to your hospital, your hospital association, national AHA, and others as the provider-rep for United is not the ones who can effect change. Are you ready to work as a state and walk away from this? Is it in violation of the HIPAA Standard Tx Act- that all covered entities must follow? Adding to the cost of healthcare for what reason? Lots of push backs that should be explored and pursued. Value based care – means?

Another concerning piece of ‘healthcare language’ from United and others – only authorize high-value care! Prior authorization is based on the payer’s definition – with their own resources used for this definition– high value care. United published that OPTUM, who they own, is looking to become a \$100B company thru value-based care. Really – or purchasing thousand of physicians, only authorization United-Valued Care = Value based payment. Be careful that we don’t start using ‘new lingo’ as the next-great-thing without doing a complete analysis- PAYER specific. Recent insurance webinar spoke directly to how to reduce the cost of healthcare, i.e. the payment from the payers – by prior authorization high value care only. Based on whose definition? Time to get really busy as reducing unnecessary, over-utilized services is one thing. But the insurance company determining what is high value vs the physician = tons of disputes, delays in appropriate patient care and cost! EX) Physician wanted an MRI to look at a damaged knee. Prior auth said no but would approve an Xray. Doctor said – can’t see what he needs. Still no, do the Xray first. Now for the pt who has a high deductible plan gets to pay the allowed amount for the Xray and then again for the MRI after the doctor tries again to get what was originally needed. Pt always pays. Ex) Physician wanted an MRI to see uterus issue. Initial US did not show much , now looking for more issues. Payer said – nope, do another US. After 2 more, finally approved the MRI as condition was not resolving. Pt always pays... for 3 US and 1 MRI.



GET CERTIFIED

SIGN UP NOW!

August 16-20, 2021 September 20-24, 2021 October 18-22, 2021

November 15-19, 2021

December 13-17, 2021

APPLICATIONS TO TAKE AN EXAM ARE DUE IN TO THE AAHAM OFFICE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO TESTING PERIOD.

SIGN UP NOW!



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Miguel Garay-Carson

Teleisia Lelea

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



Amber Rector

Vice President

How long have you been a member?

6 Years

Why did you join AAHAM?

Professional Development

Favorite Way to spend a day off?

Hanging out with my family.

Favorite Book and Why?

I don't have a favorite, it just depends on my mood if I prefer fiction or non-fiction. I don't like to read books more than once

Favorite Quote?

In a world where you can be anything, be kind-Unknown
Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

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

Hearing my kids laughing together

What is your spirit animal and why?

Cat, Sometimes I like attention and sometimes I just want to drink my coffee in peace.

Favorite Vacation Place?

Either a beach or mountains-any vacation is great.

What is something on your Bucket list?

Travel to Italy and Greece.



Teleisia Lelea

Chairperson for Certification

How long have you been a member?

First-year

Why did you join AAHAM?

I am passionate about the revenue cycle management prespective.

Favorite Way to spend a day off?

Familly activities indoor/outdoor

Favorite book and why?

Certification manual, just kidding! I have not read a good book in a great while, I would have to say. 'my stinky face' that my 4-year-old loves as his bedtime story.

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

Hearing other's achievements or innovative suggestions.

What is something on your Bucket list?

Travel to New Zealand, Fiji, Australia, & Rome.



Amanda Kelly

Board Member

How long have you been a member?

3 Years

Why did you join AAHAM?

Opportunity to network and continue my education

Favorite Way to spend a day off?

Camping and being with my family making memories.

Where is your favorite vacation place?

Lake Powell (UT/AZ)

Favorite Movie?

So many to choose from, I love pretty much all the 80's movies. Dirty Dancing, Breakfast Club, and Pretty in Pink!

Favorite Quote?

It is what it is

What is something on your Bucket list?

I would like to go Paddle Boarding and get my family to the beach!

Upcoming Events



Virtual Lunch & Learn

August 19, 2021

September 16, 2021

October 21, 2021



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

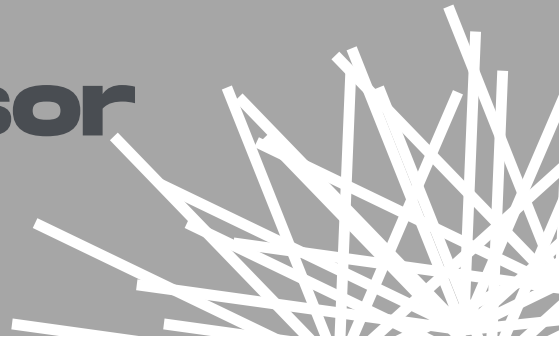
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Sandy, UT 84070

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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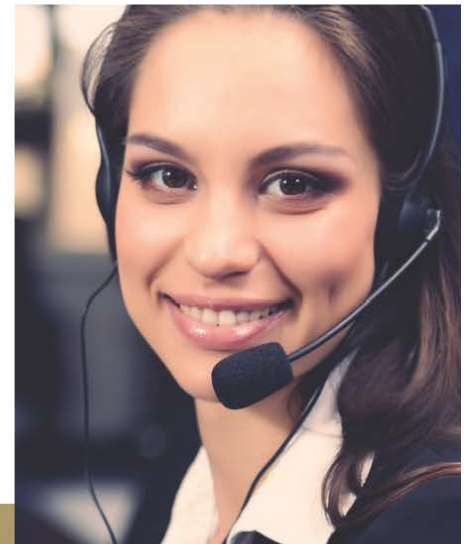
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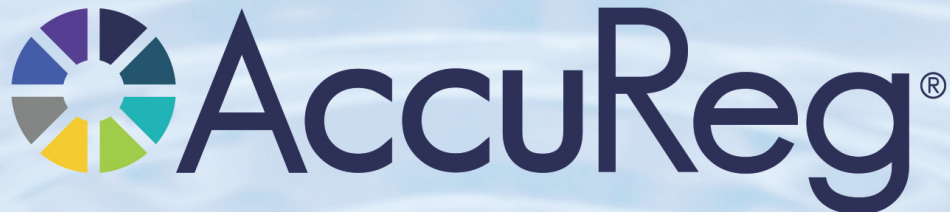


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