

# REFLECTIONS



PENNSYLVANIA THREE RIVERS AAHAM | SUMMER NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2024



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# President's Letter

Alyshia Ravida

Greetings to all our PA Three Rivers AAHAM Members-

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable spring! I love this time of year—the flowers are blooming, the kids are playing more outside, and the sun is shining more and more.

Our chapter has been very busy. In addition to having weekly CRCS certification study sessions, we had a fantastic event on April 11th—the 2024 Spring Institute and Payer Updates. There was also a multi-chapter webinar on April 16th discussing line-item denials in healthcare, including both provider and insurance company processes. The chapter also participated in the Pennsylvania/New Jersey ANI in May, which included a golf outing and a 1-day educational event. I couldn't make it this year, but I heard it was a fantastic event. A lot of hard work goes into these events to make them successful and I want to thank our Education Chair, Sharon Taube, and her Committee for all of their efforts.

On the National level, we have continued to work on our 2024-2025 priorities and developing realistic timelines and action items to accomplish all the goals we have made. We are also very focused on the upcoming Legislative Day events. This year's theme is a little different than previous years in that we are meeting with our legislators in our home states. We hope many of you can get more involved in this event as we need as much support as we can get from our members and providers!

Planning is also in motion for the 2024 ANI in Fort Worth, Texas on November 12-14. The venue is wonderful and Fort Worth is definitely a great place to check out, especially the cattle drive! The national organization is currently soliciting potential speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors. Whether you are a vendor or provider, we would love to see you there.

For those interested in getting certified, the Summer Webinar Series will take place again this July and August. Each week a section of each certification level will be covered. Check out the Certification Corner for more details!

Please save the date for our Annual Fall Conference, which will begin on the evening of Thursday, September 5th with a networking event and continue on Friday, September 6th for a full day of great education. This year's event will be held at the Rivers Casino Pittsburgh. This venue specifically was chosen to make it more accessible and affordable for our providers to attend. As always, thank you to our chapter sponsors! Without you, we couldn't be offering these great events, networking, and educational opportunities for our members.

Sincerely,  
Alyshia Ravida  
Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter President

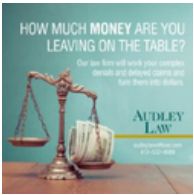
# Pennsylvania Three Rivers AAHAM

## Corporate Sponsors

### Diamond Sponsors



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### Bronze Sponsors



### Scholarship



# Save The Date

## Booking Information

SEPT  
5TH & 6TH

ANNUAL FALL  
CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE



**\*\*STARTS WITH A  
NETWORKING EVENT  
THE EVENING OF THE  
5TH \*\***

RIVERS CASINO & THE LANDING HOTEL  
PITTSBURGH, PA

AAHAM  
**ANI 2024**  
FORT WORTH  
TEXAS

Pioneering the Future of  
Revenue Cycle Excellence

*INNOVATE. LEAD. OPTIMIZE.*

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2024 • WORTHINGTON RENAISSANCE

# Education Update

Sharon Taube

## April Payer Meeting Summary

We had a wonderful day of education and networking at our Spring Payer Meeting in April, held at the Marriott North in Cranberry. We started the day with Office Ergonomics 101 with our friends at Phoenix Rehabilitation, which was amazing! Jolene Calla at HAP provided State & Federal updates and we heard from three payer representatives. Lisa Lane, a Worker's Compensation Defense Attorney, wrapped up the day with WC current issues in PA.

## Save the Date for our 2024 Fall Conference!

We listened to the advice from our Member Survey and moved our Fall Conference to a closer location with fewer days out of the office. The Education Committee is working hard to finish the agenda for the Fall Symposium "Key Pathways to the Revenue Cycle Journey" which will be held at The Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh. We will kick off the event with an evening Welcome Reception on Thursday, September 5th followed by a full day of great education, networking, raffles, and prizes on Friday, September 6, 2024.

## Sneak peek on a few topics....

- Patient Engagement in a Digital Age
- KPI/Metrics: data tracking in healthcare and how to apply context and make them actionable.
- Provider Experiences-Front End Transformation Journey
- Revenue Cycle Leadership Panel
- Attorney Don Mulholland is back!

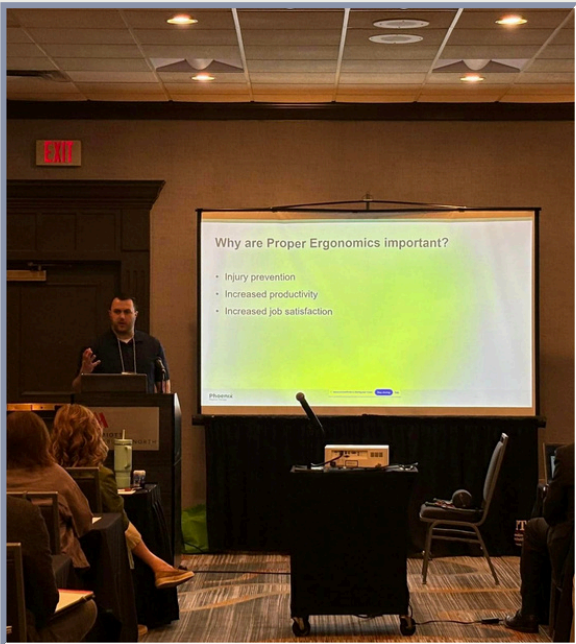
We are excited to move the symposium to Pittsburgh and look forward to seeing everyone there!

- \$115 PA Three Rivers AAHAM Chapter Member Registration before August 2
- \$130 PA Three Rivers AAHAM Chapter Member Registration after August 2
- \$175 Non-Pennsylvania Three Rivers AAHAM Member Registration
- \$135 bundle deal before August 2 (PA Three Rivers AAHAM Membership and Meeting registration)
- \$160 bundle deal after August 2 (PA Three Rivers AAHAM Membership and Meeting registration)

# Education Update



# Education Update





## THE LANDING HOTEL

757 Casino Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15212



The Landing Hotel Welcomes Three Rivers Chapter AAHAM scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2024 through Saturday, September 7, 2024, with the discounted group rate of \$159 for the exclusive use of your guests.

Reservations may be made in the following ways:

1.) [BOOK INSIDE OF THE GROUP BLOCK HERE](#)

2.) Call 412-231-7777, reference group code/name. Group Code is AAHC.



**The reservation cutoff date (deadline to access the group rates) is Thursday, August 15, 2024. Please ensure to make your reservations on or before this date.**

Thank you for choosing The Landing Hotel - Pittsburgh, we hope you enjoy your stay!

# Certification Corner

Brenda Fraas

On Thursday, February 22, Three Rivers AAHAM held a Certification Overview webinar. That was the first session of seven interactive webinars preparing members for the CRCS exam. All AAHAM Chapters were invited to participate. In addition to members from our Chapter, we also had someone from South Dakota join us, as well as, New Jersey, Maryland, and Colorado. The three sections of the exam were divided up between the sessions that were approximately 90 minutes in length with questions and discussion at the end of each session. Since most of the folks were familiar with the upfront process, more time was devoted to Billing and Collections. One attendee said it was like she was listening to a podcast and learned so much. The sessions had a few questions that were brought to the National Certification Chair asking her to review them. We also questioned why we would ask what the 2023 Medicare deductible was on the 2024 exam. The exam is getting updated for current information. We wish everyone the best in taking the CRCS exam as they start the AAHAM Certification ladder!

If you were not able to join the CRCS study sessions we offered and you're interested in one of the certification levels, National's schedule for their webinars is:

- Wednesday, July 10 | Combat your Testing Anxiety 1:30-2:30p.m EDT
- Thursday, July 11 | CRCE Patient Access 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, July 17 | CRCS Patient Access 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Thursday, July 18 | CRCE Billing 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, July 24 | CRCS Billing 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Thursday, July 25 | CRCE Credit & Collections 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, July 31 | CRCS Credit & Collections 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Thursday, August 1 | CRCE Revenue Cycle Management 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, August 7 | CRCP Patient Access 12:00-1:00p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, August 7 | CCT 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Thursday, August 8 | CRCP Billing 12:00-1:00p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, August 14 | CRCP Credit & Collections 12:00-1:00p.m. EDT
- Thursday, August 15 | CRCP Revenue Cycle 12:00-1:00p.m. EDT
- Tuesday, August 20 | CRIP 1:30-2:30p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, August 21 | Know Before you Test 1:30-2:30p.m EDT



# Certification Corner

Brenda Fraas

## Recertification Updates:

National AAHAM adopted a new recertification process due to the move to a new database. The process includes the submission of the recertification form, which is located at: <https://aaham.org/page/recertificationform>. The new database does not have the capability to inform members when they have reached their required CEUs that are needed for recertification. The new recertification form only takes a minute or two to complete and will notify certified members that your CEU journal is ready to be reviewed for recertification. Recertification is the final step in attesting that all CEUs for your current certification cycle have been received. This is only to be completed once you have met the minimum number of CEUs required for your certification. Please Note that the recertification attestation form cannot be submitted until you are within 6 months of your expiration date!

To submit for recertification, please follow the following 3 easy steps:

- Submit your CEUs and verify that you have the required amount for your particular certification.
- Review the eligibility criteria and ensure that you are eligible for recertification.
- Submit your recertification attestation form to the National Office at <https://aaham.org/page/recertificationform>

Helpful Links:

- Recertification Requirements Chart: <https://aaham.org/page/Certification>
- How to submit CEUs ([video](#))
- How to submit CEUs ([step-by-step guide](#))
- How to view your certification expiration date ([video](#))
- How to complete and submit your recertification form ([video](#))

### AAHAM Offers 5 Certifications. Which One is Right for You?

Exam	Number of questions	How long does it take	Duration of certification	Cost of exam/retake	Test window or on-demand	Cost of study guide	Required CEUs for recertification
CRCE	180 total (45 per section)	8 hours	2 years	\$299/\$50	Testing window	\$399/ Practice exam is \$50	40
CRCP	240 total (60 per section)	4 hours	2 years	\$199/\$50	Testing window	\$299	30
CRIP	240 total (60 per section)	4 hours	2 years	\$199/\$50	Testing window	\$299	30
CRCS	120 total (40 per section)	2 hours	3 years	\$100/\$50	On-demand	\$99	30
CCT	80 total (1 section)	90 minutes	3 years	\$100/ no sections	On-demand	\$99	20

# Certification Corner

Brenda Fraas

## Certification or Recertification questions?

Do you have questions about certifying, recertifying, CEUs, exam registration, how to view your certification expiration date, how to view or submit CEUs, how to complete the recertification form, register for retakes, and how many CEUs you need?

If so, please join Cindi Poole for a monthly Zoom call, where she will share her screen and show you what you need to know. The calls are on the first Tuesday of every month from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

<https://ahint.zoom.us/j/83749991840?pwd=NE85VFNHTEU3U0RvYjdTV1N6M2Z5UT09>

## Retired Status

If you are retired and recertifying, complete the Recertifying Retired form at

<https://aaham.org/page/recertifyretired>

Once this is completed and processed, your credential will become {CERT} retired. This will ensure you no longer need to submit CEUs or complete the recertification process again. It also allows AAHAM staff to update your record with your most recent contact information.

## Recertification Resources

AAHAM has a page that contains the number of CEUs required for each type of certification as well as how to earn all of the AAHAM CEUs that are available. It also contains how to register for live webinars and how to watch previously recorded

[webinars.https://aaham.org/page/EducationalRoadmap](https://aaham.org/page/EducationalRoadmap)

# Certification Corner

Brenda Fraas

## Certification Exam Updates

Did you know librarians in all states are certified to proctor exams? Not all libraries have the facilities to provide this service, but if you are looking for an in-person exam proctor and having trouble finding one, you can inquire at your local library. The library may charge a nominal fee, but most provide the service free of charge.

## Rescheduling Exams

Only one rescheduled exam is permitted, which is reserved for extenuating circumstances only. Cancelling or rescheduling after a test-taker has already rescheduled once will cause them to forfeit their exam fee and they will need to reapply through AAHAM. This will cause them to incur a new full application fee. Rescheduling for the CRCE must be approved by the Executive Committee.

If a test-taker needs to reschedule through Proctor U, they will need to contact National Staff for a link. They will not be able to schedule or reschedule without a link sent from staff. They can e-mail Cindi Pool at:

cpoole@aaaham.org or call (703)281-4043 ext. 3

## Certification How-to's

This page contains several step-by-step guides in PDF format as well as videos on how to view CEUs, how to submit CEUs, how to submit the recertification form, and how to register for each exam, including section retakes. Go to: <https://aaaham.org/page/certificationCert-how-to>

## Certification Exam Dates

- July, '24 Exam Dates | 07/15/24-07/19/24
- August, '24 Exam Dates | 08/19/24-08/23/24
- September, '24 Exam Dates | 09/16/24-09/20/24
- October, '24 Exam Dates | 10/21/24-10/25/24
- November, '24 Exam Dates | 11/18/24-11/22/24
- December, '24 Exam Dates | 12/16/24-12/20/24

# Membership Musing

Christine Ifft

Thank you all for renewing your membership this year! We hope you are enjoying some of the benefits. We would like to take a minute to highlight one of the many benefits that you can benefit from with an AAHAM membership:

## Enhance Your Career-network with peers:

- Join a local AAHAM Chapter. There are 28 local AAHAM chapters across the nation from which to choose. Joining a local chapter keeps you up to date on the most recent developments in your local area and provides you with opportunities to network with others in your area who share insights on common problems.
- A Membership Directory is available online to connect you with other local and national members and vendors.
- Our Job Bank can assist you in searching and posting your next job opportunity.
- Unlimited networking and information exchange.
- Access to state hospital associations nationwide.
- AAHAM Members Only Social Network.

If you have joined our Chapter through National but have not yet been updated with our Chapter, please notify us and we will investigate and update your membership record, if applicable! (Sorry, but there is a slight delay in relaying records from National to the local chapters.)

Speaking of networking with your peers, if you haven't renewed your local membership, you can still take advantage of the membership rate for our upcoming Fall Conference—we are once again offering a “bundle ticket” where you can see the savings of becoming a member! The “bundle ticket” will include your membership dues along with the member rate for the meeting. This is a significant saving for choosing this ticket over the non-member rate! We hope you will join us!

## DOES ACT 6 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MOTOR VEHICLE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW REQUIRE PROVIDERS TO ACCEPT MEDICARE-BASED REPRICING IN ALL INSTANCES?

Charles J. Hilton

31 Pa. Code §69 clarifies and interprets §1797(a) of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law (“the Act”). 31 Pa. Code § 69.12 states Providers are to be paid their customary charge with no adjusted repricing for trauma services. Section 69.21 states Providers are to be paid at 80% of their customary charge if there is no Medicare payment mechanism for the procedure. Section 69.22(f) states that if first-party benefits are exhausted and there is health insurance, Providers are to be paid according to the terms of the health insurance policies, without regard to the medical cost containment provisions of the Act. Section 69.22h states that if no portion of the Provider’s bill is paid by automobile insurance coverage, the Medicare payment limitations no longer apply. The Provider may then directly bill the insured or other insurance carrier as it had prior to the passage of Act 6. For example, if a patient was driving his vehicle and struck a tree (no liability claim and no letter of protection) and his first-party benefits were completely exhausted prior thereto, the Provider can bill the patient without regard to Act 6 re-priced fee schedules.

In addition to the aforementioned, in *Pittsburgh Neurosurgery Associates, Inc. v. Danner*, 733 A.2d 1279 (Pa. Super 1999), the Pennsylvania Superior Court rendered a decision regarding reimbursement to Providers under Act 6. In *Pittsburgh Neurosurgery*, the Provider was partially paid by the patient’s first-party motor vehicle insurer Nationwide, before Nationwide exhausted the patient’s first-party limits. Significantly, in *Pittsburgh Neurosurgery*, the patient had no secondary health insurance, therefore §69.22(f) was not at issue in the entire case. Moreover, since the Provider had no secondary insurance to bill after the first party benefits exhausted, the patient’s injury attorney sent the Provider a Letter of Protecting stating he will pay the patient’s remaining outstanding charges from recovered motor vehicle liability proceeds.

It should be noted that without a Letter of Protection from the patient’s motor vehicle injury attorney, the Provider would have no standing or access to receive payment from a patient’s motor vehicle liability recovery.

In *Pittsburgh Neurosurgery*, the Provider argued that §69.22(h) permitted them to be paid without Act 6 adjustments because first-party benefits exhausted. However, the Court rejected their argument because the Provider had a Letter of Protection from the patient’s motor vehicle injury attorney stating the Provider would be paid from recovered motor vehicle liability proceeds, which would therefore satisfy §69.22(a). That is, Section 69.22 (a) states that if a Provider is paid from motor vehicle liability insurance proceeds, the Provider must accept the Act 6 re-priced Medicare-based fee schedule.

In light of the above, there are instances in which Providers are required to accept the Act 6 fee schedule amount and other instances in which there are exemptions, such as the ones noted above. It is clearly fact-specific. Therefore, it would be prudent for a Provider’s billing department to be cognizant of these motor vehicle regulations.

Charles J. Hilton, J.D., M.B.A.  
Attorney at Law  
Charles J. Hilton & Associates, P.C.  
“The Revenue Cycle Law Firm”  
412/435-0162

# Treasurer's Report

Erica Methven

## Account Balances

Account	Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Non-Profit Checking xxxxxx1315	15,717.01
Scholarship	4,869.94
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>20,586.95</b>
<b>Liability Accounts</b>	
<b>TOTAL Liability Accounts</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>20,586.95</b>