



Weekly Auditing and Compliance Tip



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The Importance of Attitude and Continuing Education

Coders, auditors, even physicians, and other healthcare professionals recognize their career paths will require ongoing education. For those with certifications or other professional designations, continuing education units (CEUs) are a routine annual requirement of credential maintenance. Even for those new to the profession and who've yet to sit for a certification, the need to stay informed and current with industry trends, emerging or changing regulations, or exploring potential growth and development opportunities requires education.

Opportunities for education span a wide array of settings and formats including conferences, meetings, live and recorded webinars, and even learn-on-your-own formats. Formal conferences, such as the NAMAS Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, can be one or multiple day events. Association chapter meetings and/or webinars are generally 1 to 2-hour events, often scheduled during lunch hours or at the end of the business day to avoid cutting into productive work hours.

I've had the great opportunity to attend and speak at multiple educational conferences and I've recently experienced a revelation that I believe is an overdue reminder to everyone who attends education

opportunities. There are always new, updated or previously misunderstood things in healthcare about which we can and should learn. For those who've



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which we can and should learn. For those who've been in the field for many years, it's all too easy to look at education sessions as a social event and opportunity to reconnect with friends and associates. Networking, checking possible new job opportunities and visiting exhibitors in the exhibit hall are all part of the experience, but it's important to not treat the actual education sessions as secondary concerns, often sitting in the back of the room where we can comfortably answer emails without paying much attention or listening to the information being presented. Or, we attend sessions we've heard three times before because we enjoy the speakers' style and delivery and we can count on being entertained during the session. After all, we know what we're doing and we're only there for the necessary CEUs, right?

My epiphany regarding the value of paying attention to education came during a session on teaching physician guidelines. I've coded, audited, and provided education for teaching facility providers and felt confident my level of understanding was more than sufficient. You can imagine my great surprise when I realized the presenter was covering information I'd never heard previously! I stopped what I had been doing (reading through e-mails) and began listening - really listening, to the material being covered and quickly realized some of my knowledge on teaching guidelines was outdated, insufficient or, plainly inaccurate. The speaker did a tremendous job in providing education further supported by clear citations, references and examples to support her position. I realized at that point I'd been taking for granted opportunities for continuing education and truly wasn't appreciating the value available to me. We're all lifelong learners and failing to understand this may result in inadequate job skill competencies and attitudes that are outdated, inflexible, and unable to adapt to the rapid changes of the healthcare industry.

Don't think that continuing education is simply a requirement of certification! I encourage you to challenge yourself to attend sessions covering new or emerging topics. Don't rely on the familiar, but rather look for speakers affiliated with organizations you admire or topics pushing the boundaries of traditional services. Consider new or emerging opportunities in coding, auditing or other areas such as risk adjustment, clinical documentation improvement, or compliance. Listen carefully to the information being presented and compare that against your current knowledge base. If the material coincides with what you already know, take this as a validation of your expertise. If the information conflicts with what you know, consider the source or sources of information -

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Our **Medical Auditing Bootcamp** will train you to become a medial auditor. Learn the principles of auditing, compliance regulations, and how to perform the daily duties of an auditor.

Our **2-day ONSITE** Medical Auditing Bootcamps are scheduled as follows:

November 16 & 17: Tallahassee, FL

We also offer this bootcamp as a **5 week LIVE ONLINE Saturday course**. Each class is 3 hours and 15 minutes in length. Our next online course begins November 11, 2017!

Click Here to Learn More & View Our Medical Auditing BootCamp Schedule



Our **2- Day E&M Auditing Bootcamp** is an accelerated auditing training specific to E&M auditing. Learn about audit policies, get clarity on documentation guidelines, medical decision making, medical necessity and more. Plus, during this training program you will have the opportunity **earn our NEW CREDENTIAL - Certified Evaluation and Management Auditor (CEMA)!**

Our 2-Day E&M BootCamps are scheduled as follows:

December 5-6: Orlando, FL

is the conflict due to inaccuracies on your part or the presenter? You might consider privately and respectfully questioning material you feel inaccurate or insufficiently supported by following up with the presenter via e-mail or post-presentation conversation to better understand the speakers point of reference.

Developing and maintaining a mindset that values voluntary lifelong learning, including the ability to identify individual and practice-specific professional development goals can be a challenge; however, failing to capitalize on education opportunities, well that's just foolish!



**This Week's Audit Tip
Written By:**

**Betty Stump, MHIA, RHIT, CPC,
CCS-P, CPMA, CDIP**

Betty is a longtime consultant in the healthcare industry focusing on outpatient clinical documentation strategies (CDI).

**NAMAS 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance
Conference Speaker Spotlight**



**Speaker
Spotlight**



Kim Charland, BA,
RHIT, CCS

Vice President,
Strategic Initiatives,
Pena4, Inc.

During the NAMAS 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference, Kim Charland will be presenting the following sessions:

- Pre-Bill Auditing Opportunities: When There are Conflicts Between CDI, Coding & Quality Measures
- Facility E/M Coding: Are You at Risk?

Each week, we will spotlight a conference speaker and the session(s) he/she will be presenting.

Join us for this year's conference **December 6-8, 2017** in **Orlando, FL** at the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort! Click the image above to learn more about conference

December 5-8: Orlando, FL
January 23 & 24: Knoxville, TN
February 6 & 7: Atlanta, GA
February 13, 15, 20 & 22: Online Evenings (6pm - 9pm EST each session)

Click Here to Learn More & View Our E&M Auditing BootCamp schedule

**Join NAMAS for the 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference
December 2017 in Orlando, FL!**



Conference Information

Pre-Conference: Tuesday, December 5
Conference: Wednesday, December 6 - Friday, December 8
Venue: Loews Sapphire Falls Resort
Orlando, FL

[Click Here to View the Conference Agenda](#)

Learn from the best in the industry, network with your peers and visit with our hand picked group of industry relevant exhibitors all in the gorgeous Caribbean inspired backdrop of the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort

Conference Pricing

NAMAS Member

Conference Only: \$1195

Pre-Conference & Conference: \$1445

Non Member

Conference Only: \$1295

Pre-Conference & Conference: \$1645

Plus, Don't Miss Your Opportunity to Be a Conference VIP!

This year, we are proud to offer a limited number of VIP package add-ons available to all attendees at the nominal rate of \$129. Add on the VIP experience

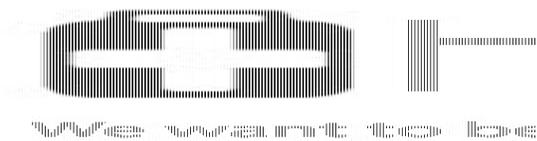
Complimentary Tip of the Week

Our weekly auditing & compliance tip emails are available to anyone who could benefit from this information.

If you know someone who would like to receive these emails, invite them to sign.

Click the image above to be added to our email list!

Weekly Tip Sponsor



This week's tip sponsor is
Healthpac

Healthpac provides medical practice management software and programs to help keep your practice running smoothly

To learn more about Healthpac, visit their website at www.healthpac.net.

Healthpac will also be an exhibitor at the NAMAS 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference.

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Sample what a NAMAS membership can offer you with our **FREE 1-month LITE trial membership!**

to your conference registration today!

As a Conference VIP, you'll receive:

- A VIP registration line for faster check-in
- A VIP branded name badge to wear during conference sessions
- Registration to our **EXCLUSIVE VIP Brunch & Session** occurring the morning of Wednesday, December 6 before general session begins. This exclusive training will be presented by Frank Cohen
- Admission to our **VIP ONLY EVENT** - occurring the evening of Thursday, December 7. Enjoy a relaxing evening of entertainment, dancing, food and networking in the Caribbean inspired Sapphire Falls Resort
- Bonus **NAMAS Swag**
- Additional \$500 in **NAMAS Bucks!** Use NAMAS Bucks to bid on a variety of prizes available in our exhibit hall

And, as a special added bonus, all VIP attendees will receive a book of printed handouts for all NAMAS pre-conference & conference sessions. As a VIP, there's no need to print handouts before you arrive- Your book will be waiting for you upon your arrival!

There are only a limited number of VIP packages available to be issued on a first come, first served basis. Add on the VIP experience to your conference registration today!

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NAMAS Calendar of Events



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Click the image above to get your 1-month free trial membership today!

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NAMAS is proud to offer the following webinars in November:

**From Patient Registration to Paid-in-Full:
Understanding & Managing the Revenue Cycle
(How-to Webinar Series)**

Speaker: Betty Stump
November 14, 2017
2pm EST

**The 2018 OIG Target List Update
(Compliance Webinar Series)**

Speaker: Robert Liles
November 21, 2017
2pm EST

**Hands On: Auditing Urgent Care Services
(Hands-on Webinar Series)**

Speaker: Scott Kraft
November 28, 2017
2pm EST

If you are interested in registering for the webinar above,
please email us at namas@namas.co