



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM) Holds 5th Annual Legislative Day

Fairfax, VA – The American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM) www.aaham.org, a professional association, held its fifth annual Legislative Day, April 15-16, 2009 at the Liaison on Capitol Hill.

More than 100 members of the association participated in the congressional overview discussion, “Healthcare Reform and What Congress has Planned for this Session” and attended one on one meetings with their senators.

Congressional speakers included:

Jennifer Mallard, Senior Associate Director, American Hospital Association; Erik Rasmussen, House Ways and Means Committee; David Sitcovsky, Representative John Larsen (D-CT) and Jay Solzmann, Representative Wally Herger (R- CA)

“We were extremely pleased with the participation in the event by our members as this Legislative Day drew the largest number of attendees than previous gatherings. With the current economic cutbacks; it was especially meaningful that this many members placed such a high level of importance in attending and participating, said Laurie Shoaf, CPAM, AAHAM President.

We accomplished our goal of having the majority of senators agree to support AAHAM’s four key issues of:

1. Establishment of National Payer Identifiers;
2. Mandating the use of a Standard Patient Identification Card;
3. Adding a HIPAA transaction for claim-by-claim acknowledgements and
4. Requiring all payers to have the ability to pay electronically using Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) or Automated Check Handling (ACH) transfers.

Additionally, senators agreed on sending a letter to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, urging the adoption of these actions.

“Bringing our members together for this collaborative effort on behalf of the association, shows the impact AAHAM membership can make on issues” said Charles Myers, CPAM, Chairman of the Government Relations committee.

The Government Relations Committee had identified the four issues that would streamline certain aspects of the revenue cycle and taken together, could cut as much as \$30 billion a year in administrative costs.

Following the Hill visits, a members' debriefing reception provided an opportunity to unify messaging and share results of this years Legislative Day.

2009 Legislative Day sponsors included "The President's Level" Sequetor Inc.; "Senator Level" sponsors were AAHAM chapters of Keystone, New Jersey and Philadelphia. "Representative Level" sponsors were Illinois and Maryland Chapters.

For more information regarding AAHAM and its programs, please visit www.aaham.org or contact AAHAM, 703-281-4043.

ABOUT AAHAM

The American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM) is a national professional association of thirty-seven chapters and over 2600 healthcare patient financial services professionals from hospitals, clinics, billing offices, allied vendors, physicians and multi physician groups. AAHAM members direct the activities of the thousands of people who are employed in the healthcare industry.

AAHAM is the preeminent professional organization for revenue cycle professionals and is known for its prestigious certification and educational programs; professional development of its members is one of the primary goals of the association. AAHAM is also recognized for its quarterly journal, *The Journal of Healthcare Administrative Management* and its Annual National Institute, held each fall. AAHAM actively represents the interests of its members through a comprehensive program of legislative and regulatory monitoring and participation in industry groups such as WEDI, ASC X12, NUBC and NUCC.

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