



Tri-County Chapter of Medical Assistants

Newsletter

Fall 2011



Tri-County Chapter President's Message

by Jennifer E. DeCaro, MPH, BS, CMA (AAMA)

Wow! Would you believe the Tri-County Chapter of Medical Assistants has been around for fifteen years? As Chapter President, I am happy to announce that our Chapter is still serving the counties of Delaware, Chester and Montgomery in southeastern Pennsylvania. We owe this all to our dedicated team of Chapter Officers who go above and beyond to help maintain our Chapter's success. Happy 15th Anniversary Tri-County Chapter!

There are so many opportunities in the Chapter and anyone who is interested can get involved. Whether it is

joining our monthly meetings to help plan our seminars and continuing education, or to help promote the credential, all our welcome! Not only can you get involved at a local level, but also at the state and national level. The choice is yours!

Why not find out what we are all about? Come join us and see! We are a voluntary organization who all share one thing in common - the importance of our Medical Assisting credential!

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Tri-County Represented at PSMA State Convention



(above) top row: Donna Firn, Donna McGeehan, bottom row: Janet Ross, Geneva Gondek and Cathy Rafa represented the Tri-County Chapter at the May 2011 Board of Trustees Meeting in Johnstown, PA.



(left) Our own Donna McGeehan was sworn in as the PSMA State President



Jacqueline P. Fehling PSMA Memorial Scholarship Award Winner

By Jean Di Stephano, DCCC Medical Assistant Student

When our teacher gave all of her students an application for a scholarship back in January 2011, I folded it up and put it in my school bag and dismissed it as scholarships are for young people not for me who is 45 years old. The next day I was at home and I pulled out the scholarship application and I said to myself the only one who thinks I am old is me, why not me? So I decided to fill the application out and said to myself at the very least I will learn what scholarships are all about. When I had to write this letter about myself I came to the conclusion that we all have a story to tell. Even I had a pretty interesting story! So within a week I gathered all the information and I mailed off the application. I again dismissed the

scholarship from my mind; I was very busy with school!

When I found out I won, I felt so honored. Here I was 45 years old, I had to make a huge life change when my company downsized and I found myself unemployed. I never would have thought that I would be the recipient of a scholarship. When I found out I was the first recipient for the JACQUELINE P. FEHLING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD I had to stop and think. This woman was very accomplished. I was told great things about her. I went online and read about her. I need to keep this woman's memory alive. I need to honor her. I need to become the best person that I can.

So here I am still 45 years old. I



Jean DeStefano works with instructor, Donna Firn at DCCC.

am still in school. I will be graduating very soon. I will be leaving this wonderful college to start another chapter of my life. This all may be very scary but I do not think that Jacqueline would have ever been scared so I will not be either.

Thank you Jacqueline, your spirit still lives on!



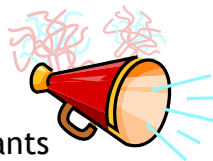
Delaware County Community College Medical Assistant Students

learn skills in
the classroom.



NEW CMA (AAMA) Spotlight

The Tri-County Chapter of Medical Assistants would like to congratulate the following Delaware County Community College Graduates of the Medical Assistant Program who are now newly Certified Medical Assistants and recently passed the AAMA Certification Examination.



Megan Albright Sposetti, CMA (AAMA)
Sharon Dunn, CMA (AAMA)
Margaret Gorman, CMA (AAMA)
Smilee Gouv, CMA (AAMA)
Nicole Hetherington CMA (AAMA)
Allysa Jones, CMA (AAMA)
Kelly Lintott, CMA (AAMA)
Alicia Melloni, CMA (AAMA)
Laura Quinn, CMA (AAMA)
Janet Ross CMA (AAMA)
Arlene Sanchez CMA (AAMA)

PCMH and the Medical Assistant

By John C. Munshower, D.O., FACSG

The Patient Centered Medical home (PCMH) is a unique delivery of care that can profoundly improve the outcomes of patients. There are several factors that must be met to be a "PCMH" including *Personal Physician, Physician (Team) Directed medical Practice, Whole person Orientation, Care is Coordinated and or Integrated, Quality and Safety, Enhanced Access, and Payments that reflect the safe and effective quality care.*

The PCMH really is most effective when the "Team" concept is embraced by all the health care professionals in the office. The medical assistant (MA) plays a key role in helping to coordinate and integrate

the care delivered to the patient. The MA has a vast knowledge of health care, including rooming a patient, helping in tests/lab acquisition and follow-up, coordinating follow-up visits, medication management including medication reconciliation at every visit, and various office procedures. The certified MA has an amazing skills set, and those skills when utilized to their maximum potential allows for the PCMH model of care to work most effectively. Keeping people healthy and managing chronic diseases through evidence based medical guidelines can be achieved and patients can benefit from safe, quality driven health care when the

physician, MA, and all the office staff work as a cohesive team to coordinate each patient's care.

Payers' are starting to recognize the importance of PCMH and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is a certifying body that provides accreditation to physicians and health care organizations. Crozer Keystone has achieved level 3 accreditation for PCMH, the highest level achievable. The MA plays a key role in all the practices at Crozer and remain one of the most valuable team members!



Medical Assisting in Pulmonary Medicine

By Donna Firn, CMA (AAMA), CPC

I work for two pulmonary and sleep specialists. The patients we see come to our practice to help manage their pulmonary problems, as well as their obstructive sleep apnea. I assist the physicians in pulmonary diagnostic testing and treatment procedures.

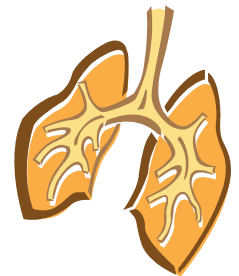
A large majority of our patients have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in America. The exchange of respiratory gases has been compromised, and over time they are unable to get rid of the carbon dioxide from their lungs. Other diseases that we commonly see are emphysema, pneumoconiosis, asthma, bronchiectasis and chronic bronchitis.

To help these patients manage their pulmonary problems, we perform Volume Capacity Spirometry Testing. This test determines the extent of a pulmonary disease by showing us a person's lung capacity. In addition Pulse Oximetry can be done to indicate both the pulse rate and the oxygen saturation of hemoglobin in arterial blood. Often a sputum culture is needed when a patient is having symptoms of pneumonia, TB or an infection in their respiratory tract.

The results of the tests will determine what kind of treatment plan is necessary. As a medical assistant you will administer nebulizer treatments and metered-dose inhalers. The continued use of steroids and bronchodilators may be necessary for the patient to help manage their pulmonary problems. It is very important that you instruct the patient on how to operate all devices properly.

While we are able to help some of our patients to maintain an active lifestyle while coping with their conditions, there are others who are not as fortunate. Patients with End Stage IV COPD or Lung Cancer unfortunately have less than a 20% survival rate. During this time it is important to be as compassionate and supportive to both their psychological and physical needs.

I am proud to be a Certified Medical Assistant....it is a very rewarding career where you can make a difference in a person's life.

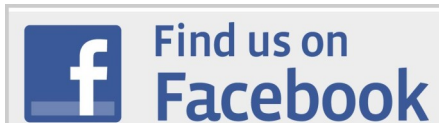


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Of Medical Assistants
NEWSLETTER**

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For more information, please visit us
on the Pennsylvania State Society of
Medical Assistants (PSMA) website at
www.pasociety-cma.org



**Join the Tri-County Chapter and the
Pennsylvania Society of Medical
Assistants on Facebook too!**

Tri-County Officers

President
Jennifer DeCaro, MPH, BS, CMA (AAMA)

Past President
Donna Firn, CMA(AAMA), CPC

Vice President
Cathy Rafa, CMA (AAMA)

Treasurer
Geneva Gondek, CPC, CMM, CMA (AAMA)

Recording Secretary
Janet Ross, MPT,BS, CMA (AAMA)

Mission Statement
*Medical Assisting is an allied health profession
whose practitioners function as members of the
healthcare delivery team and perform
administrative and clinical procedures.*

Fall Board Meeting for the PSMA

When: October 22, 2011 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Wyndham Garden Exton/Valley Forge.

We will be offering continuing education on various topics including Medical Billing & Coding and Stress Reduction to enable CMAs to acquire CEU's.

Please visit the PSMA website for more information. <http://www.pasociety-cma.org>