Rome Coding Professionals

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CocoNuts For Coding

Our evening in St. Augustine

Jacksonville
Conference Fun
2010

My feet are killing me

I thought it was your turn to watch her!!!

Are we having fun yet?

Are we there yet?

Pickiest eater in the crowd and what is she eating!

Fried Alligator!

Which way did they go?
Peggy Green, CPC, CPC-I  This is the best of the seven conferences that I have attended. It was hard to believe that the 2010 AAPC National Conference in Jacksonville, Florida was going to be cancelled or at least rescheduled for a later date, however, Melanie and her team did a fantastic job of getting everything together for us. The city of Jacksonville rolled out the red carpet for us. They had banners along the sidewalks welcoming the AAPC to Jacksonville. They provided entertainment each night at Jacksonville Landing and also had a huge big screen welcome for us. They gave each member a coupon to turn in for a free gift.

The food was the best of any of the conferences that I have attended. Needless to say, I have not gotten on the scales since I got back, I know I have gained several pounds. However, hopefully, all the walking we did helped some. We did get to go to St. Augustine Beach one night for dinner. I’m sure Crystal's husband, Craig, will never be the same after being the only male with 7 females. Linda’s husband, JC, was also honored to eat with us one night.

The sessions were incredible. There was something for everyone from coding to compliance to EMR to watching live surgeries via the web. I learned something new from each of my sessions. But I think I really enjoyed the surgical chart auditing the best. Shannon Smith gave information on what we need to look for in the surgical note when the procedure is performed in the office. Sometimes the dictation is not the best in the world and her tips were great.

The general sessions each morning were worth their weight in gold, especially, Dr. Faris Jordon. I do not remember when I have laughed so much. Dr. Jordon is a PhD and from Tennessee. His accent is pure Southern and his stories were hilarious. IF you every get a chance to go to the annual conference, it is worth every cent.


Early morning Education was infused with entertainment and a great deal of laughter. There was dancing to the music; the new version of the YMCA was renamed appropriately the AAPC! Presenters Dr. Farris Jordan kept us in stitches on dealing with stress while Dr. Patricia Raymond had a great delivery on Rx for Sanity prompting us to ask “does it make your ears wiggle?”

Officers' training was interesting and informative. Listening to the other chapter officers reconfirm what I already knew. Our chapter is headed in the right direction! Many of the ideas shared were ones we already have in place. There are a couple of new ideas that are in the works which we will share when they are finalized. Also of note, the handbook is being updated and I will have the new one available for our chapter meetings as soon as it is released. You may also refer to it on the AAPC website.

The big reminder?? It’s election time. It is time to start gathering volunteers for officer positions and committee chair persons.

There were some great choices for the breakout sessions. There were 9 different tracks to choose from; Surgery, Orthopedics, Interventional, Primary Care, Audit, Advanced General Coding, Facility, Payer and Practice Management. I elected for a combination; some auditing, primary care, surgery and payer. Time is allotted for questions and some of the presenters will stay after the session to answer individual questions. Some will even answer questions e-mailed to them and share other information, policies and procedures they have instituted.

Best of the best was sharing this experience with Debby, Kathy, Crystal, Peggy, Crista, and Linda!!!! Looking forward to next year!

Kathy Selman, RN, CPC  The 2010 AAPC National Conference was a great networking and educational experience! I received 18 CEU’s and enjoyed every minute in doing so! Topics of some of the sessions I attended included teaching physician rules, medical record auditing, billing preventive/sick visits same day, non-physician practitioner documentation, EMR compliance risks and much more!! The AAPC conference exemplified the member’s code to promote and maintain the highest standards of the profession! Over all - great opportunity!

Crystal Moore, CPC  This was my first time attending the National Conference and although it was not a walk in the park, I had a blast. The most memorable speaker was Dr. Farris Jordan, a psychologist who taught us how to dance through our stress and tough times. I enjoyed the company of the members who attended the conference with me with our dinner out on the town and night time visit to the beach at St. Augustine. The classes that were offered at the conference were so interesting and it was really hard to pick only the ones that filled the allotted time. I enjoyed learning about many things including overpayments, E/M auditing, and watching a video of a hysterectomy. I also was in a class that allowed me to physically touch instruments used in interventional surgeries such as a stent and the equipment used to insert it. The food was my least favorite part of the conference but that is only because I am such a picky eater well except I did eat fried and breaded alligator while Cindy, Peggy, Debbby, and Kathy watched in disbelief! I couldn’t get them to try it either! I would sum the conference up in one word, AWESOME! I would love to attend the next one especially in Long Beach California but we will have to see what life determines between now and then. If you have the opportunity to attend a conference I would recommend doing so because even though it is as tough as being at work and at times equally stressful, the benefits of education, entertainment, fun, and friendship are well worth it.
Debby Craven, CPC, CHCA

Jacksonville was a wonderful experience. I was skeptical to say the least when the Conference which is usually 1 year in the planning had to be moved from Nashville to Jacksonville within 30 days. This year it felt as if we really got to know some of our National Leaders and staff—they truly care about each of us and our needs. The AAPC has come a long way in the last two years—and it is a GOOD thing.

Reconnecting with old friends and making new friends is always fun. After a long day of workshops and lots of walking it was fun to relax in the hot tub and meet other coders from Alaska, California, Arkansas and Georgia. You find that you are not alone in the coding issues that you encounter.

I enjoyed the workshops, this year there were many workshops geared to the seasoned coder as well as the new coder—they challenged us all! Regardless of how long you have been coding—there was something for everyone.

I enjoyed the fun we had on our trip to Jacksonville. Believe me when I say—riding with Peggy, Cindy, Crista and Kathy was an experience!

Ingenix is giving a certificate for one free product to one of our lucky attendees at the July meeting.

Choices includes:
- 2011 Diagnosis Coders Desk Reference (valued at $139.95)
- 2011 Comprehensive ICD-9-CM Table of Drugs and Chemicals (valued at $89.95)
- 2011 Pediatric Diagnosis Desk Reference (Valued at $129.95)
- 2011 Current Procedural Coding Expert (Valued at $99.95)
- 2011 Coding Companion for OB/GYN (Valued at $199.95)
- 2011 Coding Companion for Primary Care (Valued at $199.95)
- 2011 Implementing ICD-10 (Valued at $124.95)
- 2011 Surgical Cross Coder (Valued at $174.95)

Chapter T-Shirts are here!

If you pre-ordered your T-Shirt you can pick it up at the July 8th Meeting. There are a few extras that will be available on a first come bases.

Linda Warren, CPC

The national conference in Jacksonville was wonderful. The AAPC conference team did a great job in getting the conference moved to the new location on such short notice. I enjoyed all of the conference. I meet people and networked with them and it makes you realize that you are not the only one with certain problems. I think one of the best sessions I had was the heart valve procedures. The lady that did that session showed us actual films of the procedures. It was awesome for me to be able to watch a live aortic valve replacement.

I also enjoyed getting to be with my local chapter members. If you have not been to a national conference you do not know what you are missing.

Humor in Healthcare

Funny statements found in accident reports!

"Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."

"The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment."

"I told the police that I was not injured, but when I removed my hat, I found that I had a fractured skull."

"The pedestrian had no idea which way to run, so I ran over him."

"The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to swerve out of the way when it struck my front end."
The AAPC Chapter Association (AAPCCCA) announced that the local chapters raised more than $10,600 to donate to the American Red Cross for the relief efforts in Nashville, Tenn. following the severe flooding in early May. Of the $10,600 that was raised, $5,600 was donated by the attendees in Jacksonville! This was totally amazing!