



March 2011

**"Winds of March, we welcome you,
There is work for you to do.
Work and play and blow all day,
Blow the Winter wind away."**

After the Winter we've had, can Springtime come a moment too soon? Keep an eye out for those welcoming signs: the green shoots of early flowers peeking through the ground, a warm day that dares you to put your coats and gloves away, those gigantic, ugly piles of sooty snow FINALLY melting!

From the President's Desk: My February 2011 Message:

The Chinese New Year was celebrated at February's meeting. This is the year of the Rabbit. They say that means it will be a very peaceful year. Rabbits are also very productive as well. Therefore, we should all be looking forward to a very happy, healthy, productive and peaceful New Year.

Our February meeting was a huge success thanks to our membership and to Terry Kelly, whose RAC presentation was extraordinary...we certainly did Rac & Roll. At our first meeting, I expressed my desire to turn this Chapter back to its members with direction for the Officers. I see this starting to happen and could not be more excited.

We have had an over-flowing amount of people offering to volunteer for all aspects of our activities, from exam proctoring to exam preparation, May Mania, Coders Day, and our meetings in general. Kent Davenport was active with his camera so we can memorialize our meetings and look back and say – oh yeah – I remember that! So to that end – we must make sure to at least comb our hair and put on the lipstick or whatever..

Our next meeting is March 3, 2011 with Joanne Cheung, CFE. Joanne is the Director of Privacy & Security from the Office of Ethics, Compliance & Corporate Integrity at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey.

Please download all presentations from www.monmouthnjcoders.com one week before the event. They can be found under the event section...then go to the month of the event you will be attending.

Please also remember to sign up at the same site at least a week before the event so we can order the right amount of food. Over-ordering only costs more money and we would like to be able to use the money for more Chapter functions – not just food.

I want to applaud the Officers this year for an exceptional job to date. Their ideas and enthusiasm are outstanding.

I also must make mention of our two Chapter Guru's whose advise and dedication never waver. They make this Chapter complete...and they are CLAIRE BARTKEWICZ AND NANCY CLARK...THANK YOU BOTH!

Your 2011 President,

Bonnie Jaye Ivler

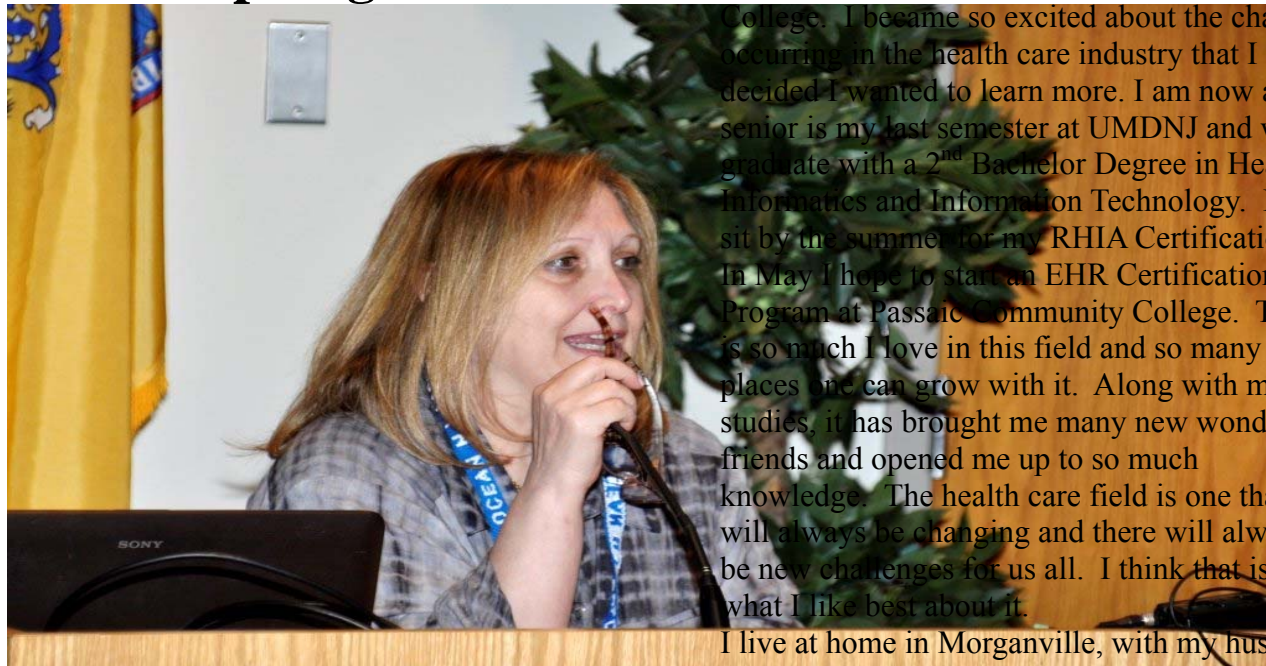
Important Message from AAPCCA about Project AAPC

February 7th, 2011

Project AAPC and Feeding America – Last year Project AAPC was a huge success! The funds raised by the Local Chapters were donated to the American Red Cross for flood ravaged Nashville. The mission of Project AAPC is to support those in crisis. This year we are looking at a much larger crisis in America, HUNGER. Feeding America (formerly Second Harvest) serves over 37 million people a year through their network of food banks nationwide. We know that our members care about their communities and this is a way to give back to those in need. It's time for your Local Chapter to get creative and organize some fundraisers for Project AAPC. Your Local Chapter donations can then be turned in at the AAPCCA booth during the conference in Long Beach where you will receive the coveted "Project AAPC" Ribbons for your chapter members. It will be an exciting time to see what the Local Chapters can do together!

Our very own AAPCCA representative, Claire Bartkewicz, is leading the charge in our chapter, and will be collecting donations for this worthy cause. Any great fund raising ideas or suggestions are welcome!

Officer Spotlight:



Bonnie Jaye Ivler
President Monmouth-

Ocean Chapter AAPC 2011

I came to this Chapter 3 years ago after a career change from the Garment Center of Manhattan and the Real Estate Tax Lien Market in NJ. I have obtained my CPC-A after taking my certification classes at Brookdale Community College. I became so excited about the changes occurring in the health care industry that I decided I wanted to learn more. I am now a senior in my last semester at UMDNJ and will graduate with a 2nd Bachelor Degree in Health Informatics and Information Technology. I will sit by the summer for my RHIA Certification. In May I hope to start an EHR Certification Program at Passaic Community College. There is so much I love in this field and so many places one can grow with it. Along with my studies, it has brought me many new wonderful friends and opened me up to so much knowledge. The health care field is one that will always be changing and there will always be new challenges for us all. I think that is what I like best about it. I live at home in Morganville, with my husband of many years and 6 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. I now have an adorable 10 week old little Grandson that I cannot see enough of.

(Where the heck do you find the time, Bonnie? - ed.)

Job Opportunities



Ear, Nose & Throat Healthcare Services

Accounting and Auditing Services
Neptune, NJ 07753
Employee Full Time
Years of experience: 2+ to 5 Years
Career Level-Experienced (Non-Manager)
Salary is commensurate with experience.

Medical Billing Office Manager

About the Job

We are Coastal Ear, Nose & Throat, LLC, a prestigious Otolaryngology Practice in Neptune, NJ. Our practice is rapidly expanding and we are seeking an experienced Manager to complete our billing team. Candidates should have a deep understanding of insurance reimbursement procedures and strategies. We are looking for a bright, energetic, leader who knows how to get the best out of their staff and maintain good relations with patients and payers. Certified coder is a plus.

Responsibilities include analyzing accounts receivable reports, weekly and monthly financial reports, negotiating insurance contracts, credentialing, supervising employees and developing effective work flow and reimbursement operations.

We pride ourselves on being up to date with all Health Information Technologies. Applicants should be forward thinking, *in the know and on the lookout* for new technological enhancements and applications. Coastal ENT offers competitive pay, health insurance, and 401k for full-time employees. We re proud to provide an excellent work environment and

family atmosphere. Our practice is growing and we need career-minded professionals to grow with us.

Interested? Forward us your resume and salary requirements. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Check us out on the web,
www.CoastalEarNoseandThroat.com and
www.CoastalHearing.com**

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**Medical Biller Needed**

Full time Medical Biller needed for busy OB/GYN office in East Brunswick. Job will include some coding, OB Global and procedure charges, AR and Claims tracking, insurance denials management, claim corrections and resubmissions. OB experience preferred, but will train.

Competitive salary and excellent benefits offered.

Please mail resume to [albhills@aol.com](mailto:albhills@aol.com) or fax to Alice at (732) 967-0055

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## “ASK BARBARA”

Dear Barbara:  
i am having a bit of a problem with Medicare. We are listed as primary and have a specialty of nephrology. When I bill for hospital as a consult, I get rejected for being 2nd to bill because the primary has already billed and got paid so we have to send in proof that we were consulting. do you think we should list with Medicare as

nephrology as prim and internal as spec?  
my next? i try to bill for diabetic foot exams  
with g0245 and Medicare does not pay. i  
am using 99213 with 25 modifier and dx  
250.60. what am i doing wrong? Also  
cannot get paid for doing pt/inr on patient  
using dx 427.31 and 85610 and 36415.  
Would love to attend the next meeting on  
March 3, other than showing up do i need  
to know or do anything. if you know of  
anyone who would come to my office for  
one on one training please let me know.  
Thank you for any help you can give me  
Mari JANOWSKI  
Office manager for Dr ANU CHAUDHRY

**Answer:**

First, 99213 is an outpatient EM code and from  
what I understand from the question, the billing  
is for hospital services of a Nephrologists. If  
the doctor is a consulting physician, he should  
be billing 99221-99223 assuming that the  
documentation requirements have been met for  
the code. If not, it may have to be down coded  
to 99231-99233. The admitting physician  
should also be billing 99221-99223 but they  
should be adding an AI modifier to indicate that  
they are the admitting physician of record so

that the consulting physicians can be  
determined.

Another thing that helps the consultant paid and  
not denied for “concurrent care” is to  
coordinate the diagnoses, with each specialist  
treating a different diagnosis. So, the  
Nephrologists is treating Kidney disease, with  
secondary diagnosis of diabetes with kidney  
complications. The admitting doctor may be  
treating the uncontrolled diabetes. The treating  
physicians need to speak to each other and dole  
out the ICD-9 codes to the appropriate  
physicians for their specialty to make sure  
Medicare pays them and does not deny them for  
concurrent care.

I suggest you find out what the admitting  
physician billed in the way of diagnosis and  
adjust appropriately, based on your doctor’s  
documentation. Also, make sure the admitting  
physician is using the AI (A eye) modifier to  
indicate they are the admitting physician.

**Barbara**

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***Ginny Nordgaard***, one of our members, has presented us with a proposal for an ICD-10/EMR  
Implementation Forum, wherein a set portion of our monthly meetings could be used as a forum to  
discuss implementation issues pre and post adoption of Version 5010, ICD-10 and EMR. The purpose  
would be to find common ground to help each other through these changes, and make the rough spots  
easier by sharing such things as training approaches and materials, forms design, workarounds, and  
experiences with vendors. Great idea, great job, and thank you for sharing, Ginny!

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**Proposal for ICD-10/EMR Implementation Forum**

A set portion of our monthly meetings could be used as a forum to discuss implementation  
issues pre and post adoption of Version 5010, ICD-10 and EMR.

Some things to be discussed:

- What are the issues common to all users, regardless of facility type, practice size, or  
software vendor; such as changing work flow, forms and data collection.
- Sites who use the same software vendor/s and their specific issues;
- Where everyone is in the implementation process;
- which people in our group have any prior experience, good contacts, implementation plans in

place and working;

-websites with helpful information on any aspect or stage of implantation;

The purpose would be to find common ground to help each other through these changes and make the rough spots easier by sharing such things as training approaches and materials, forms design, work-arounds, and experiences with vendors

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## **Exam Dates**

**Brookdale: ATEC room 218 & 220**

**May 7**

**August 6**

**October 22**

**December 3**

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## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

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**March 3, 2011**

**April 7, 2011**

**May 14, 2011 – May Mania**

**June 9, 2011**

**July 21, 2011 Fundraiser**

**August 4, 2011**

**Sept. 1, 2011**

**October 29, 2011 – Coders Day**

**November 3, 2011**

**December 1, 2011**

**Please sign up in advance at [www.monmouthnjcoders.org](http://www.monmouthnjcoders.org)  
Go to events and click on Whoscoming for the event you wish to attend.**

# MAY MANIA 2011

*Our treasurer, Addie Hart, is accepting checks for May Mania now*

MAY 14, 2011

7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Renaissance Catering, 1110 Valley Road, Ocean Township, NJ

\*\*\*4 AAPC CEUs\*\*\*

Join us for a morning of speakers who specialize in fields related to women's health issues.

Admission includes deluxe breakfast, served 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Menu includes omelet station, bagels with accoutrements, eggs Benedict, bacon and sausage, french toast, honey baked ham, fresh fruit display, pastry assortment, juices, tea and coffee with flavored creamers.

Our vendors will offer sampling and selling of woman-related products.

Cost for attendees is only \$39.00 and includes *deluxe breakfast!*

**Attendees please Register now at <http://whoscoming.com/AAPC/>**

## Heart ♥ Health-Health Tip of the Month

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Reprinted:

The month of February is not only a month for love and valentines, but also for heart health! Cardiovascular diseases, including strokes, are the leading cause of death in this country. This scary statistic prompted an entire month being dedicated to raising heart health awareness.

You can improve your heart's health in the following ways:

- Get active
- Eat a healthy diet
- Stop smoking
- Manage your blood pressure
- Lose weight
- Reduce blood sugar

You can't improve your genes but you can reduce other risk factors that contribute to heart disease such as smoking and stress. Try mediation or relaxation techniques. Have your blood pressure checked at a routine doctor's appointment.

Like the other muscles in your body, your heart can be strengthened with exercise. Some great heart strengthening activities include kickboxing, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and hitting a punching bag (which is also a stress relief). If you require low impact exercise, or currently suffer from heart disease, walking, a slower pace on an elliptical machine, or pilates might be better for you.

Heart healthful foods include those that are low in saturated fat and cholesterol, and high in fiber. Did you know fiber helps reduce your LDL, also known as your bad cholesterol? Try making small adjustments like replacing sugary cereals with high-fiber ones, mayonnaise with mustard, or chips and dip with veggies and hummus. Here is an easy recipe for hummus:

- 15 oz. can garbanzo beans, drained (keep the liquid)
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- Salt to taste
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Combine garbanzo beans, garlic, cumin, salt, pepper, lemon juice and olive oil into a mixing bowl. Put the contents of the bowl into the food processor and blend on low speed, gradually adding the reserved garbanzo bean liquid, until the desired consistency is achieved. You can use it as a sandwich spread or dip veggies or pita chips into it.

**Take care of your heart and your heart will take care of you!**

# Minutes

Monmouth-Ocean Chapter AAPC Meeting  
February 3, 2011

The meeting began at 6:00 pm. Bonnie Ivler welcomed all members and their guests in attendance, and wished everyone a happy Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rabbit. She congratulated our two newest coders, Joy Fox, and Kathleen Fox-Stuphin and pins were distributed by Denise Sikora.

It was announced that there would be a planning meeting for May Mania, immediately following the meeting, any members interested in getting involved, would be welcomed and much appreciated.

Minutes for January's meeting were approved and seconded. Treasurer Addie Hart reported that all bills were current, with a total of \$5,492.30. She also announced that she was accepting checks for May Mania now.

Members were reminded that, in an effort to 'go green' and save money at the same time, we will no longer be printing handouts of the power point presentations for each meeting. These will be available at the AAPC website, one week before a scheduled meeting, and can be downloaded from there.

Members were also reminded to sign up before meetings at whoscoming.com, so that we may have an accurate head count for ordering dinner.

The Membership directory was available for all to review and correct if necessary, so that we have the most current information for each member before going to print.

It was announced that the purchase of a laptop has been put on the back burner for now.

Ginny Nordgaard presented a proposal for an ICD-10/EMR Implementation Forum, wherein a set portion of our monthly meetings could be used as a forum to discuss implementation issues pre and post adoption of Version 5010, ICD-10 and EMR. The purpose would be to find common ground to help each other through these changes, and make the rough spots easier by sharing such things as training approaches and materials, forms design, workarounds, and experiences with vendors.

Addie will look into EHR vendor to speak to the group after a show of hands suggested an interest.

Alice LaBruzza notified the group of a job opening in East Brunswick, and had very kindly printed up the job description to pass around. Members were reminded that any job opportunities can also be posted in our newsletter, and to provide Kathy Wright any information in that regard.

Claire Bartkewicz also mentioned a coding position in Holmdel, and to see her for further information. She also discussed Project AAPC, and fundraising as a chapter, to provide funds for HUNGER IN AMERICA, and that any ideas or suggestions for ways to raise funds as a group can be submitted to her.

At the conclusion of announcements, Bonnie welcomed and introduced Terry Kelly, RAC Coordinator, Meridian Health System, who presented the evening's topic: "Let's RAC and Roll; All about the RAC."

At the conclusion of this very informative presentation, there was no further business to discuss, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Wright, CPC  
Secretary

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