

# *Connecticut Coders Quarterly*

## *Newsletter of the Connecticut Chapter of the AAPC*

Summer 2002

Issue 4

### *... a Note from the President's Desk...*

Summer is here, and a lot of us are taking a little time out to enjoy the season. We have decided to have a meeting this summer. Dr. David Leffell, Director of the Yale Medical Group will present to our Chapter on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The subject matter is appropriate for the season, "Skin Cancer Prevention and Treatment".

The year is half over and we really need to start thinking about nominations for the 2003 officers. We will have the election in November. We are ready to begin accepting nominations at this time. Please let an officer know if you wish to nominate someone, or if you are interested in running for one of these positions (President-Elect, Secretary, or Treasurer).

We hope to see you at the July meeting and we wish you an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Susan E. Smith  
President, Connecticut Chapter

### **Compliance Millions**

By Bev Bakes, CPC

Our chapter hosted the Bridgeport Chapter on Tuesday, June 11, 2002 for a game of Compliance Millions. It was moderated by Judy Harris, Director of Compliance for the Yale Medical Group, assisted by Tony Fusco and Terry Griffith.

The group was split into two teams, each team getting three lifelines: phone an auditor (Terry), poll your team, and 50/50 (remove 2 answers).

Here are a few of the kinds of questions that were asked:

1. E & M documentation rules were published in :
  - A. 1995/1997
  - B. 1997
  - C. 1996
  - D. 1995

The correct answer is A – there are still 2 sets of guidelines you can choose to follow!

2. Name for Rhode Island Fraud Unit
  - A. Medicaid Crime Unit
  - B. Medicaid Fraud and Control Unit
  - C. Medicaid and Fraud Patient Abuse Unit
  - D. Medicaid Investigations Unit.

The correct answer is C.

3. Component of critical Care:
  - A. Intubation
  - B. Vascular Access procedures
  - C. Gastric Intubation
  - D. B & C

The correct answer is B & C

The questions increased in difficulty and in hypothetical dollar amounts, finishing off with the Million Dollar question. The game proved to be a fun way of learning , while also obtaining a CEU for attending.

In addition, Steve Sharma, President of the Bridgeport Chapter, told us about **Codewise** , which will be meeting on Tuesday, July 2 and Thursday, August 1. This is a coding group that meets to discuss coding issues and you can also get CEU's by attending. The hours are from 6:30-8:00pm. Codewise is conveniently located in Stratford, Connecticut at 95 Armory Road, in the Rader Chiropractic Building. For additional information please refer to the Website, [www.codewise.net.org](http://www.codewise.net.org).




### **Meeting Notice**


A Summer meeting has been added this year, so please put this on your calendars and **RSVP!**

**When:** Wednesday, July 17, 2002, 10 – 12 noon  
**Where:** Room 110 of the Jane Ellen Hope Building,  
Yale University School of Medicine  
315 Cedar Street, New Haven

The speaker will be David J. Leffell, MD, Professor of Dermatology and Surgery at Yale, and Director of the Yale Medical Group.



Announcing the AAPC Eleventh Annual Conference “Islands of Coding” April 13 – 16, 2003 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Steve Sharma, President of the Bridgeport Chapter, is working with a contact in Hawaii regarding 2 charter flights for this event. You can contact Steve directly at [tssharp@bpthosp.org](mailto:tssharp@bpthosp.org) for further information as it becomes available. “See you in Paradise!”



## Bulletin Board

### Upcoming Meetings

July 17, 2002 – Wednesday

10:00 – 12 noon

Location: Room 110, Hope Building  
315 Cedar Street, New Haven, CT

Speaker: David J. Leffell, M.D.  
Director, Yale Medical Group

Topic: “Skin Cancer Prevention and Treatment”

CEUs: 1.5

October 4, 2002 – Friday

All Day Seminar at the Marriott Courtyard, Orange, CT  
Agenda to follow – look for the brochure this summer!

November 6, 2002 – Wednesday

8:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Brady Auditorium, Yale University  
310 Cedar Street, New Haven

Speaker: Christine Vogel, Deputy Director,  
State of Connecticut, Office of  
Managed Care Ombudsman

**\*Elections will be held during this meeting\***

### Exams

September 28, 2002 – Saturday

8:00 am – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Max Taffel Room at YNH  
East Pavilion, 20 York Street

Index #: 20301-2274

Proctors: Susan Smith, CPC  
Corrine Gray, CPC

### Fall Exam Review Class

September 20, 2002 – Friday

8:00 – 4:00 pm

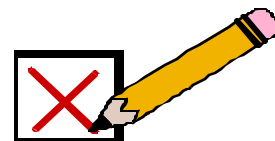
Location: Yale Childrens' Research Center  
Second Floor Conference Room  
464 Congress Street, New Haven, CT

Contact: Susan Smith (203)-737-1117

## Housekeeping

Just some general reminders:

- ❖ If you are not a member of the national AAPC, you may attend up to 3 local Chapter meetings in a year, paying the local Chapter guest fee of \$4 per meeting attendance.
- ❖ You must be a current member of the National AAPC to join the local Chapter. Annual local Chapter dues are \$15 for the calendar year. As a local Chapter member, you may attend as many local Chapter meetings as you wish for no additional fee.
- ❖ Please RSVP for local Chapter meetings at least 3 days prior to the meeting. We need to plan handouts and refreshments accordingly.
- ❖ Please be sure to sign in at the meeting and advise us if you are a CPC – it is important for getting CEUs prepared.
- ❖ You may earn additional CEUs other than those assigned per meeting. Where a minimum of six ceu-approved meetings per year are held, the National AAPC allows 2 CEUs for a member that attends 75% of these meetings. The Connecticut Chapter anticipates meeting this six ceu-approved meeting criteria. CEUs were approved for the following meetings so far:
  - 2/5/02 – 2.5 CEUs
  - 3/25/02 – 2.0 CEUs
  - 5/2/02 – 1.0 CEUs
  - 6/11/02 – 1.0 CEUs
  - 7/17/02 – 1.5 CEUsCEUs for the 11/6 meeting are pending
- ❖ Please notify me of your email address if you would like to receive meeting reminders (you can email me at [joyce.dupee@yale.edu](mailto:joyce.dupee@yale.edu)). I send a group list out, so you may receive a reminder even if you've already responded.



Officers:

President – Susan E. Smith, CPC

President-Elect – Corrine Gray, CPC

Secretary – Joyce Dupee, CPC

Treasurer – Christine Hoyt, CPC

Newsletter Staff:

Joyce Dupee, CPC, Editor

Bev Bakes, CPC

Lynn Festa, CPC

Tony Fusco

Irma Reyes

Susan E. Smith, CPC

Pat Waleski, CPC

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Please visit the website of the Connecticut Chapter of the AAPC at

**[www.ctaapc.org](http://www.ctaapc.org)**

## What the HECK Is That?

A column for unique diagnosis

By Irma Reyes

### *Café-au-lait spots 709.09*



Here is a perfect example of a unique diagnosis, “Café-au-lait spots”. Who decides on the medical terminology? The answer remains a mystery. However, I can almost assure you the diagnosis has nothing to do with drinking too much coffee.

In fact, Café-au-lait spots usually present at birth, but may arise later in the first few years of life. They are sharply demarcated, evenly pigmented flat spots that are oval with the long axis situated along a cutaneous (skin) nerve tract. They are light to medium brown, as reflected by the name - which of course means "coffee with milk" in French.

Cafe-au-lait spots are caused by too much color (pigment) in the skin. To have a few such spots is normal, a single cafe-au-lait spot usually is not a sign of a health problem. However, 5 or more spots that are larger than 0.25 in. (6.35 mm) in diameter or ones that occur along with freckles in the armpit may suggest other health problems.

Most cafe-au-lait spots do not go away, may increase in number, and do not require treatment.

Check again for the *What the Heck Is That* column on our next AAPC chapter Newsletter!

## Just For Fun

The Doctor named Lyle was a devil  
Billing only at the most highest level  
Instead of denial,  
When questioned at trial  
He said: “I’m entitled to 5’s when I file”!

There once was a coder named Clair  
Who pulled numbers right out of the air  
The Feds couldn’t ‘ve been meaner  
They brought a subpoena,  
Thank God, she got life ... not the chair!

There once was a coder I knew  
She said coding was boring ... it’s true!  
But the solution, she knew it,  
Ask someone else – how to do it  
Funny, so long as it’s not you !

*Coding Limericks by Tony Fusco*

## Helpful Websites

[www.ctaapc.org](http://www.ctaapc.org) – Connecticut chapter of the AAPC

[www.aapcnatl.org](http://www.aapcnatl.org) – National AAPC

[www.ctmedicalprogram.com](http://www.ctmedicalprogram.com) – Medicaid

[www.cmgma.org](http://www.cmgma.org) – CT Medical Group Management Association

[www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com) – Anthem Blue Cross

[www.achmo.org](http://www.achmo.org) – CT Association of Health Plans

[www.info.med.yale.edu/yfp/comply](http://www.info.med.yale.edu/yfp/comply) – Yale Medical Group Compliance

[www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us) – CT Dept of Public Health

[www.ct-clic.com](http://www.ct-clic.com) – CT on-line licensing center (verify physician medical licensing and renewals)

[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org) – American Board of Medical Specialties

[www.ahd.com](http://www.ahd.com) – American Hospital Directory