



September 4, 2019

Revenue Cycle Professionals Designate September As National Healthcare Month

Fairfax, VA – Today, the American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM), the premiere industry revenue cycle association, declared September National Healthcare month.

With healthcare continuing to be a top priority for voters, hospitals, and Congress, AAHAM is urging everyone to join with them in calling on Congress to make healthcare the number one priority this month. With so many issues facing patients, hospitals, and insurance companies, AAHAM is calling on Congress to work with patients and the industry on passing legislation that addresses issues like price transparency, “surprise” billing, 340B drug cuts, anti-spoofing calls, and consent, that can be sent to the President for his signature later this month.

AAHAM is pointing to four critical areas Congress needs to address that will go a long way in reforming key areas of the healthcare system.

AAHAM is calling on Congress to restore current cuts and protect future cuts to the 340B drug program. The 340B program helps low income patients get the life-saving medication they need. “Cuts to or elimination of this program will take healthcare in the wrong direction,” claimed AAHAM President, John Currier, CRCE. “The 340B drug program is a life-saving choice for some. With the program, patients who need it, can get the medicine they need to live a longer healthier life. Without the program, some patients won’t get the medicine they need, and they will die,” he added.

AAHAM is calling on Congress to pass thoughtful legislation that ends “surprise” or out of network billing for patients. “Congress needs to pass legislation that protects patients from these bills,” stated Amy Mitchell, CRCE, AAHAM 2nd Vice President. “One key solution to this problem is baseball style arbitration which is working in the state of Illinois and can work on a national scale as well,” said Mitchell.

AAHAM is calling on Congress to pass legislation that addresses the rapid rise of spoofing calls. Today hospitals and patients are being inundated by calls from scam artists seeking money and personal information. “Today too many patients are falling prey to these spoofing calls, which is draining them of their life savings,” stated Currier. “The rapid rise of spoofing calls is having a major impact on a hospitals ability to care for patients. It becomes very difficult to serve our patients when they are receiving spoofed calls, made to look like they are officials calls from our hospital, requesting personal information and in a lot of cases payment services they may have never received,” stated Currier.

AAHAM is calling on Congress to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to rule on petitions that request clarification on what is informed consent when it comes to a patient's care. "This issue may not seem like a big healthcare issue to some, but it is," said Lori Sickelbaugh, CRCE, AAHAM First Vice President. "In order for hospitals to meet the needs of their patients, they need to use the newest technologies available to do that. This means rules on how hospitals connect with their patients have to be clear to avoid frivolous lawsuits, which drain critical resources from hospitals that could be better used for patient care. With the help of Congress, we can get the FCC to rule on these petitions that have been awaiting action for several years," she added;

AAHAM is committed to working with Congress and the President on reforms that put healthcare reform on a path bringing down costs, while making the system more efficient for both patients and hospitals.

Today, AAHAM urges everyone all-across the country to join them and their call to make September National Healthcare month. Together we can make a difference. Together we can work with leaders from both parties to pass meaningful healthcare reforms that benefit everyone. Together we can show our elected leaders just how critical these reforms are to ensuring all us have the quality and affordable healthcare we want and need.

Join AAHAM's call-to-action today!

ABOUT AAHAM

The American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM) is a national professional association of thirty chapters and over 3000 healthcare revenue cycle 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 premier 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. AAHAM actively represents the interests of its members through a comprehensive program of legislative and regulatory monitoring and participation in industry groups. For more information on AAHAM and its programs, please visit www.aaham.org or contact AAHAM, 703.281.4043.

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