



Janet Fraser
President

President's Message

As I sit here looking at the blue summer sky, I wonder where the year has gone. It is hard to believe that it is nearly time for the annual meeting, and that my term as President is almost over. It has been a pleasure serving as the President of AMGO for the past year.

Since the last newsletter, the Board held its spring meeting in conjunction with the MGMA Conference in Beverley Hills, California. At that meeting a number of issues were raised regarding AMGO's bylaws. It was decided that a sub-committee should be formed to review the bylaws in their entirety during the upcoming year. I agreed to Chair this sub-committee as the Past-President, and I will be seeking volunteers.

I would like to thank Carolyn Gorman who spearheaded AMGO's membership drive this past year. She sent out 98 letters to Department Chairs and Administrators of institutions across the United States and Canada who were not represented in AMGO. The Board is hoping that this will help to increase the membership of the organization once others are aware of the benefit it has to offer.

Most members have now received an e-mail from Sonja McGrath regarding their interest and willingness to serve on an AMGO Committee or to serve on the Board. I would like to encourage all of you to consider this as an opportunity. It is a great way to be involved in the group and to develop better working relationships with many of your peers.

We are now drawing close to the annual AMGO meeting which will be held in Toronto, Canada October 4 to 7, 2009. If the number of e-mails I have received regarding the venue is any indication, I believe there is a lot of interest among the membership. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions, I am happy to help. The Program Committee has worked hard to obtain interesting and knowledgeable speakers who are relevant in today's economic climate.

I would like to remind everyone that the US dollar is worth 15% to 20% more than the Canadian dollar at this time. Although it fluctuates on a daily basis, it has been in this range for the past six months. This means that most members will find attending the conference to be less expensive than in past years. (Considering today's economic environment, this is a good thing!) For example, the room rate of \$189 Canadian translates into the range of \$150 to \$160 US. Please don't forget, you **must have a passport** to enter Canada from the United States.

I would like to thank the Board members for their support during the past year, they are a terrific group of people.

I hope to see many of you in Toronto! ♦

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Mark Your Calendar.....

AMGO Annual Meeting
Toronto, Canada
October 4 - 7, 2009
(passport required)

Coding Challenges: A Summary

by Jeff Arscott, University of North Carolina

In May 2009, I attended the MGMA ObGyn Conference in Orlando FL courtesy of the annual AMGO scholarship. While there were a variety of presentations, one that I found particularly helpful was a coding update presented by **Emily Hill of Hill and Associates** (www.codingandcompliance.com). Specifically, Ms. Hill summarized the appropriate use of new codes for 2009 and how to report the most common coding challenges for OB/Gyn practices. I have summarized the highlights of the presentation below:

A revised parenthetical note following existing code 57267 (Insertion of mesh, vaginal approach) indicates that insertion of mesh may now be reported when performed at same time as code 57285 (Paravaginal defect repair, vaginal approach). Previously this had been bundled.

A new, additional code 90650 was created for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. The code refers to types 16, 18, bivalent,. This is different than the existing code 90649: HPV vaccine, types 6,11, 16, 18 quadrivalent.

The introductory language for the Preventive Medicine codes was revised to identify injection codes (ie, vaccine/toxoid product 90476–90749 and immunization administrations 90465–90474) that can be reported in addition to Preventive Medicine Services. The revision also provides examples of types of screening tests that may be reported including vision, hearing, and developmental tests

The CPT codes for therapeutic, prophylactic, and diagnostic injections and infusions (90760-90779) have been changed to 96360-96379. The descriptors are un-

changed. According to Ms Hill, the changes were made to place codes in proximity to chemotherapy administration and other complex infusion codes.

Modifier 21 (Prolonged Evaluation and Management Service) has been deleted. Instructions indicate prolonged service codes should be used instead.

Ms. Hill also led an illuminating discussion of the use of the 59 Modifier. Modifier 59 (Distinct Procedural Services) is applied to services that are usually bundled and indicates that both services should be reimbursed. The 59 modifier should be used *only if the procedure is distinct* from primary procedure and not integral. Services may be distinct because they represent:

- Different session
- Different procedure or surgery
- Different site or organ system
- Separate incision/excision
- Separate lesion or injury

In short, the 59 modifier indicates a clinical exception to bundling. Medicare expects that it reflects an unusual circumstance and is appropriate if procedures are performed on different anatomical sites or at different patient sessions. Other payers will monitor use closely for appropriateness and will typically apply a multiple procedure discount.

While coding is not on everyone's radar, taking some time to review your practice's current coding practices can improve the bottom line through improved reimbursement and decreased denials. ♦

33rd Annual AMGO Meeting Update

The 2009 annual education conference and business meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada from October 4th – 7th at the Harbourfront Radisson Admiral Hotel.

With its dramatic views of Lake Ontario, diverse architecture and vibrant culture, it is a beautiful city and wonderful meeting venue. Among the many activities are the thriving art galleries, the Bloor-Yorkville shopping district, the Kensington Market, the upscale Distillery district, charming Victorian Cabbagetown and the Hockey Hall of Fame, to name a few. The downtown theater scene is second only to Broadway and the city also has more than 5000 restaurants whipping up every conceivable cuisine.

The meeting we have planned, "**Surviving in this Economic Environment**" is both varied and informative, presenting on a number topics. SG2, a future focused health care intelligence company will present on emerging trends in Women's Health. Presentations will also include increasing physician efficiency and productivity and how best to cope with stress and change. We will also be hosting a panel discussion to engage discussion about the impact of the current economic environment on our department and schools.

We are looking forward to sharing this information and collaborating with all of you. ♦



AMGO Members: **Do You Know Who This Is?**



The answer is Connie Myers, our graphic designer for the AMGO newsletter and web page. Connie works with the newsletter editor on the articles and pictures needed to publish the newsletters that are sent to our members.

A native of Albany, New York, Connie has lived in Indiana most of her life, making her a true "Hoosier." She attended Indiana University and has worked for the Department of Ob/Gyn at Indiana University School of Medicine for 31 years, 30 of those years as a graphic designer.

Connie is happily single and enjoys traveling, theatre, reading and spending time with friends and family, especially her 2 great-nieces, Elizabeth and Simone.

Connie is one of the "behind the scenes" people that help make AMGO such a great organization. ♦

Membership Update

In late April, AMGO sent membership letters to Departments of OB/GYN not currently members. We are happy to report that since the drive, we have six new members and three pending applications. The membership committee will continue its efforts to get the word out to our colleagues across the country.

Welcome New Members

New Active Members:

Don Branson.....University of Kansas Medical Center
 Karyn KimballMarshall University
 Rebecca Zehngut.....University of Arizona
 Jennifer Stevens.....University of Wisconsin
 Dara Purvis.....Medical University of South Carolina

New Associate Member:

Kristine Green.....Southern Illinois University

Current Membership:

Active Members	70
Associate Members.....	33
Honorary Life	8
Total.....	111

Membership applications currently outstanding.... 3



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