



BRAINS

BRAINS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

Chair
Craig Williams
Roxbury, MA

Chair-Elect
Bryan Soronson
Baltimore, MD

MEMBERS

MEM Liaison
Mary McDermott, MBA, CPC
Baltimore, MD

Practice Management & Technology Liaison
Bill Henderson, FACMPE
Albany, NY

AAN STAFF LIAISON

Gina Gjorvad
1080 Montreal Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55116
Tel: (651) 695-2715
Fax: (651) 361-4815
ggjorvad@aan.com
www.aan.com/go/practice/bra
ins

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [BRAINS Listserv Participation Options Changing](#)
- [AAN Endorsed Malpractice Insurance](#)
- [Practice Managers: Now More Than Ever You Should Join the AAN and BRAINS](#)
- [FTC "Red Flag Rules" – in Effect May 1, 2009 – Likely Applies to Your Practice](#)
- [m.AAN.com Now Available for Members](#)
- [News from the AAN Website](#)
- [Tools on the AAN Website](#)

It's Not Too Late to Register for the AAN Annual Meeting!!!!

Not a member? No problem, stop by the membership booth to complete an application and receive member rates on your registration. Already a member? Register on-site for the meeting and applicable courses and receive discounted rates for BRAINS members.

AAN Annual Meeting in Seattle: Events and Courses of Interest to BRAINS Members

Free events for registered meeting attendees:

BRAINS Colloquium

Critical Thinking for Critical Issues
Saturday, April 25th 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Patient Safety Colloquium

Medication Safety Across Your Practice Settings
Sunday, April 26th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Practice Colloquium

Improving Quality Through Incentives Lessons from Model Programs
Sunday, April 26th 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Guidelines, Practice, and Advocacy Open House

Featuring Digital Demos: Technology Solutions That You Can Afford
Monday, April 27th 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Controversial Issues in Practice

Health Care Reform for the Obama Administration and a New Congress – First 100 Days and Beyond
Wednesday, April 29th 5:15 pm to 7:00 pm

Practice Courses (require additional registration)

The Practice of Neurology: Issues in Coding and Reimbursement (Course #1FC.001)

Course Director: Bruce Sigsbee, MD, FAAN
Saturday, April 25th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Making Sure Your Electronic Health Record System is a Success (Course #2AC.005)

Course Director: Neil Busis, MD, FAAN
Sunday, April 26th 9:00 am to 12:45 pm

Coding Lunch: Neuromuscular Disease (Course #2CL.001)

Course Director: Peter Donofrio, MD, FAAN
Sunday, April 26th 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

E/M: Minimize Mistakes, Maximize Reimbursement (Course # 5LS.001)

Course Director: Marc Nuwer, MD, PhD, FAAN
Wednesday, April 29th 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

BRAINS Listserv Participation Options Changing

The Business and Research Administrators in Neurology Society (BRAINS) listserv is a valuable tool for its users. Members are able to network with one another, sharing information and answering one another's questions.

The listserv also gives Academy staff a chance to communicate with neurology practice administrators on timely issues and upcoming events. Effective May 1, this will become an AAN members-only benefit.

AAN Endorsed Malpractice Insurance

AAN-Endorsed Malpractice Insurance is now available in Tennessee along with 12 other states (DE, DC, GA, KY, MD, MA, MI, NC, NJ, OH, PA, and VA). The Neurologists' Program (TNP) is designed exclusively for neurologists, and will be expanding to additional states in 2009. Group and individual policies are available. AAN members save 5% on premiums, with additional discounts available for risk management activities, including attending select AAN CME courses. TNP is managed by an experienced team at Professional Risk Management Services, Inc. To learn more, or sign up to be notified when TNP is available in your state, visit www.tnpinsurance.com or call TNP at (800) 245-3333

Practice Managers: Now More Than Ever You Should Join the AAN and BRAINS

By Bryan Soronson, MPA, FACMPE, CRA

During the current financial crisis, managing a neurology practice has become increasingly challenging. Every day, practice managers face declining reimbursement, increasing numbers of uninsured patients, participation in Pay-for-Performance programs and e-Prescribing, and the demands of moving to electronic medical records.

This is where [Business and Research Administrators in Neurology Society](#) (BRAINS) and the American Academy of Neurology come in. Joining the AAN and BRAINS provides you with the tools and contacts to help you successfully manage your practice during this difficult time. Membership is a bargain: just \$205 annually.

[BRAINS member benefits](#) include:

- Access to the BRAINS listserv, which provides members opportunities to network with their peers and obtain answers to their specific questions, as well as the chance to review and participate in discussions covering all aspects of neurology practice management
- Significant registration discounts to the AAN Annual Meeting and regional programs
- Access to online resource materials such as stroke ICD-9-CM and CPT coding guides, botulinum toxin injection coding guide, E/M templates, and more

BRAINS members serve as faculty at the [BRAINS Colloquium](#), which will be held at the AAN Annual Meeting in Seattle on April 25, 2009, and at AAN regional meetings. They speak on topics such as management of human resource functions, implementation of electronic medical records, compliance issues, improving collections, and management of clinical trials.

BRAINS members serve on several important AAN committees, including the Practice Committee, the Medical Economics and Management Committee, and its Coding and Practice Management & Technology Subcommittees.

Please consider joining AAN and BRAINS now, more than ever!

FTC "Red Flags" Rule – in Effect May 1, 2009 – Likely Applies to Your Practice

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) "Red Flags" Rule requires many businesses and organizations to implement a written Identity Theft Prevention Program designed to detect the warning signs – or "red flags" – of identity theft in their day-to-day operations. Health care providers should pay particular attention to the requirements that the Red Flags Rule applies to "creditors." The FTC has determined that physicians fall under the category of being considered creditors based on common patient billing practices.

The Red Flags Rule requires creditors and financial institutions ("covered entities") to conduct a risk assessment to determine if they have "covered accounts," which include consumer-type accounts or other accounts for which there is a reasonable risk of identity theft. If so, the covered entity must

develop and implement a written Identity Theft Program ("Program") to identify, detect, and respond to possible risks of identity theft relevant to them.

The first step any business or organization should take is to determine if in fact they are deemed a "creditor" under this rule and, if so, verify whether or not you have "covered accounts" according to the provision.

Useful Resources

[Click here](#) to view information put out by the FTC on the Red Flags rule.

[Click here](#) to view an article developed by the FTC specifically to help health care providers in complying with new requirements for fighting identity theft.

m.AAN.com Now Available for Members

Your best source for neurology resources and tools has just gone mobile. The most valuable information from AAN.com is now available exclusively for members in an easy-to-access, portable format at m.AAN.com.

Academy members with web-enabled mobile devices (also known as "smartphones") can now access resources specifically designed for mobile use. This is an exclusive member benefit that puts the most essential tools and references in the hands of neurologists when they need them.

[Read more](#) about the special mobile website exclusively available for Academy members.

Log on to m.AAN.com and access the fastest-growing neurology website—it's as close as your phone.

Members are encouraged to share their thoughts or questions about the mobile website by contacting the AAN.com Webmaster at webmaster@aan.com.

News from the AAN Website

[An Overview of the ICD-9-CM Process](#) 04/02/09

[Academy Members Encouraged to Challenge Inappropriate Insurer Rankings](#) 03/26/09

[RACs Become a Reality](#) 03/23/09

[All About CMS' Carrier Advisory Committees](#) 03/19/09

[Updated CPT Code Crosswalk Now Available](#) 03/12/09

[AMA Practice Tip: Losing Revenue Through Inappropriate Health Insurer Adjustments](#) 03/10/09

[Practice Management and Technology Subcommittee: Dedicated to Assisting Members](#) 03/05/09

[BRAINS Listserv Participation Options Changing](#) 2/20/09

[Use CPT Code 95999 for Nerve Testing Using Pre-configured Electrode Arrays](#) 2/20/09

[Reminder Regarding CAP Drugs](#) 02/20/09

[Participate in Surveys for New CPT](#) 02/19/09

[AMA Practice Tip: Negotiating Contracts](#) 02/17/09

[Competitive Acquisition Program Postponed by CMS](#) 02/12/09

Tools on the AAN Website

[AAN Practice Guidelines](#)

[Patient Safety Tips and Tools](#)

[Quality Resources](#)

[Pay-for-Performance Initiatives](#)

[Internal Audit Brochure](#)

[External Audit Brochure](#)

[Physician Profiling: How to Prepare Your Practice](#)

[AANPA Principles of Coding for Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring and Testing \(IOM\)](#)

[Hard to Find Payer Policy Links](#)

[AAN's On-Call Policy](#)

[AAN's Stroke Coding Guide](#)

[ICD-9 Coding for Stroke](#)

[CPT Coding for Botulinum Toxin Injections](#)

[AANPA's E/M Templates](#)

[Coding Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[2009 ICD-9 Coding Changes](#)

["HIT Sound Off" Podcast Series](#)

[2008 EHR Vendor Report](#)