



2012 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AASM

Thank you for your continued membership support!

This newsletter updates you on the work that the AASM has done on behalf of all our members. The AASM has long been committed to protecting quality patient care, professional and public education, research, legislation (national and state) and economics in sleep medicine. These activities are all carried on for the benefit of all who practice sleep medicine or conduct sleep research and all are made possible through our membership.

We believe that each and every professional, regardless of discipline, has the responsibility and the obligation to give something back to his or her profession. Most have enjoyed rewarding careers and future success will depend on the commitment that you are willing to make to your profession. Please renew today as we work to move the specialty of sleep medicine forward on your behalf and that of the future.

Here's how we've been working on your behalf!

Scoring Manual Revisions

Going Live on October 1, 2012!

The publication of the *AASM Manual for the Scoring of Sleep and Associated Events* is going digital!

The *AASM Manual for the Scoring of Sleep and Associated Events: Rules, Terminology and Technical Specifications* (Version 2.0) will become an exclusively digital publication. The digital format includes links to quickly take you to areas of interest, features standardized structure and terminology throughout, includes the scoring manual FAQs and contains updated figures. This version also incorporates some technical revisions to the scoring rules that have developed since the publication on the 2007 manual, including new rules for scoring respiratory events.

The easiest way to subscribe to this updated manual is to do so when renewing your membership.

Members Save!

Public Relations

With 32 million uninsured Americans entering the health care system as a result of the Affordable Care Act, it is vital that the board certified sleep specialist and the sleep team be identifiable to the public as the place to go for sleep related issues. The AASM launched several initiatives in 2012 to raise awareness of sleep disorders, sleep specialists and accredited centers.

We intend to continue with this important initiative. The board of directors recently approved a three-year public relations campaign with the

goal of increasing awareness, so patients visit board certified sleep medicine physicians and accredited sleep centers when seeking help for their sleep disorders.

Safe Harbor Proposal

Seeking an Exemption from the Anti-Kickback Statute

Current policy and Federal law, known as the Anti-Kickback Statute, prevents a sleep physician from providing a sleep test AND dispensing durable medical equipment (DME) to their patients who are Medicare beneficiaries. A Safe Harbor provision specifies that although there are various payment and business practices which could potentially violate the self-referral statute, such practices would not be treated as criminal offenses. In early January, the AASM submitted a [proposal](#) to the OIG requesting a Safe Harbor provision. Approval of this proposal would mean that board certified sleep physicians could provide a sleep test and dispense DME to their Medicare patients.

Members can access up-to-date information about the progress of the Safe Harbor proposal at www.aasmnet.org/legislation.aspx.

Sleep Medicine Economics

Current trends show insurers looking to cut costs by contracting with large providers of out of center sleep testing. Over the last year, the AASM has held meetings with several of these large providers and insurance companies urging them to use board certified sleep specialists and AASM accredited OCST providers to conduct out of center sleep testing and for follow-up patient care when required. The AASM has also been reviewing insurer policies, comparing against our clinical practice guidelines and making recommendations for edits when necessary.

The AASM participates at both the AMA RUC and CPT meetings to advocate for sleep physician. In the last year, we have worked to get two new pediatric sleep codes for patients under age 6 added to the 2013 CPT codebook.

The AASM regularly communicates with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding reimbursement for sleep services. This spring, we worked with CMS to implement a specialty code for sleep medicine physicians. Providers can now designate sleep as their specialty using the PECOS online enrollment system.

Inter-scorer Reliability

Inter-scorer reliability is not only a standard for accreditation, but it also demonstrates competency and consistency among your staff. In 2010, the AASM launched its Inter-scorer Reliability program to address the needs of accredited centers and our members. In September 2012, we launched new improvements to the program including:

- ***A completely redesigned*** user-friendly website;
- ***Changes to the records to allow individuals*** to isolate channels, create custom montages, increase/decrease sensitivities, and complete the record review quickly;
- ***A scoring committee*** to promote more consistent scoring;

Additionally, the site includes a one-hour review of each record that analyzes difficult epochs to provide additional education. Your technologists can earn up to 12 AAST CECs a year by watching the record reviews and completing a short quiz.

To register for a free 30-day trial, visit www.aasmnet.org/isr

AASM center members save!

AASM Coding Education Program (A-CEP)

Having a staff person who can manage the coding, billing and reimbursement process is vital to running a successful sleep center. These processes are complicated, so the AASM has been working on an online educational program to teach the fundamentals of coding, billing and reimbursement. A-CEP is a 12-module program that will cover the introductory information about procedural and diagnostic coding, claims submission processes and fraud and abuse in the sleep center. We anticipate this program launching in early 2013.

ICSD Update in Progress

The *ICSD* Revision Task Force is working on a comprehensive update to the *International Classification of Sleep Disorders*. The new version will be published in 2013. The updated version will incorporate advances in the field of sleep medicine since the 2005 publication of the *ICSD-2* and updated *ICD-9* coding information.

State Legislation

The AASM has invested countless hours and more than \$1 million in direct support of efforts aimed at protecting the scope of practice for sleep technology and introducing favorable legislation and regulations. In 2012, the AASM assisted the following states with their legislative efforts: Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, and Oregon.

Members can access up-to-date information about state and national policy issues that impact the practice of sleep medicine at www.aasmnet.org/legislation.aspx.

Renew Your 2013 Membership Today!

The AASM is doing a lot of exciting things for the field, and we appreciate your membership support! Members can renew by clicking [here](#) or calling the National Office at 630-737-9756 to renew by phone or request a paper invoice, which can be returned by mail or fax.
