

CASE REPORT

Case Management Society of America Newsletter

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CEs

■ **NEW** — A complimentary copy of the *Case Management Resource Path™ on Biologics and Targeted Therapy in Cancer Treatment* by Nancy Skinner was supplied to CMSA members in September as part of their CMSA member benefits. CEs are available with this Path. To access CMSA's online member-only resources, go to www.cmsa.org and click "Membership."

■ **CMSA and sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC have announced the establishment of the National Transitions of Care Coalition (NTOCC)** to improve the quality of care between health care settings, particularly for seniors. The initial meeting was October 18. This joint project will address a serious U.S. health care issue: *filling the gaps that occur when patients leave one care setting and move to another care setting.* Transitions include patients moving from primary care to specialty physicians; moving or transferring patients from the emergency department to intensive care or surgery; or when patients are discharged from the hospital to home, assisted living arrangement or skilled nursing facilities.

■ **Look for the next issue of *The Case Report* in your February 2007 issue of *CASE IN POINT*, CMSA's new official magazine.**



CMSA PRESIDENT 2006-2007

Connie Commander, RN, BS, CCM, ABDA, CPUR

You may recall that in my last message I promised to report to you about our October visit to "The Hill."

I'll have to owe you the summary since I am writing this a little before we actually make our visits as your National Board Representatives. I would like to tell you that a great deal of planning has gone into this important outreach, and I would like to personally thank Peg Leonard and her entire team who have led this endeavor. I can easily predict that it will be a success by the passion and commitment that is and has been demonstrated by all involved.

There is a statement that I recently read that says: *The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success.*

This is such a simple yet profound statement. We are so very busy working so very hard and focusing on the wellbeing of others that it is easy for us to become overwhelmed with our responsibilities. I ask you — "Are we prepared for what lies down the road?"

I have found that the interest in our organization and case managers as a whole has grown in just a few months. We are being asked to represent our perspective at multiple national tables of health care leaders. There is not a day that goes by that the CMSA National office does not report another contact or entity requesting information on how they can work with us and or how we can work with them. What a great message to report to you!

But with increased interest comes increased responsibilities. And with that comes the need for continuing education and networking. We must be current regarding events in our environment and knowledgeable regarding new technology and advancements in medical research.

Case managers have been referred to as the "glue" that holds the health care arena together, successfully. We seem to all agree that

we are the integral part of building a successful plan with the individual patient. What are we doing to make sure that others agree with that sentiment?

You have heard me speak about the importance of uniting and stepping out of our silos, but as I look into our future and see the potential awaiting us, I can only stop and take another moment to reiterate that important message.

We are the catalyst that makes the entire plan for the patient come together. It is extremely important that we focus upon collaborative efforts with all other professional disciplines to help strengthen that bond.

You will be seeing more literature and more interest in regulatory bodies, accrediting organizations, and focused coalitions about the importance of collaboration and transitioning in managing the care of the individual. We are at the center of these initiatives and must teach others the important and necessary steps in communication amongst the team members.

We are committed as an organization to improving adherence and empowerment of the individual for self care and advocacy. Are we committed to what it will take to learn new techniques, to guide the multi-disciplinary teams, and to self-educate ourselves to be prepared to mentor others?

There are multiple learning opportunities for us and multiple venues to participate in learning. Check out the online Educational Resource Library on the CMSA website. You will be pleasantly surprised by what you can access as a member and the benefits associated with this educational opportunity.

Take a moment everyday, no matter the audience, to speak about the benefits of case management. Let your voice be heard in your work environment, your home, and your community.

The message should be loud and clear. And we must be clear and loud to have the

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CARING MEANS VOTING Exercise Your Voting Rights in the CMSA Election



Go to the “polls” and never leave your home!

Cast your online vote in CMSA’s National Election from *February 7 through March 13*. Voting is open to all CMSA members, and a quick visit to the web is the easiest way to cast your ballot. Your vote makes a difference to CMSA, so mark your calendar!

Simply log on to www.cmsa.org/vote to read the candidate information, weigh your decision, then vote for the Board of Director candidate of your choice.

If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the candidate information and ballot, please

call the CMSA National Office at the phone number on the postcard you’ll receive in February. Paper ballots may be faxed toll free to (866) 829-4853.

Ballots must be either completed online or faxed or mailed to CMSA and post-marked by *Midnight, March 13*.

You’ll also receive an email message in February 2007 reminding you of these easy-to-follow voting instructions.

VOTE ONLINE HERE:

www.cmsa.org/vote

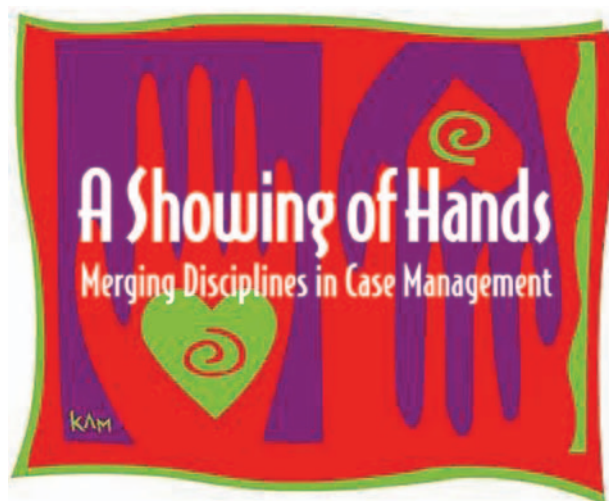
Vote in CMSA’s 2007 BOD Election — FEBRUARY 7 – MARCH 13, 2007

UPDATE: National Case Management Week 2006

We appreciate each of the organizations that participated as a sponsor/supporter of *National Case Management Week 2006*! Individual case managers and organizations are encouraged to share stories with CMSA about how you celebrated CM Week — just email us at cmsa@cmsa.org. Make plans now to mark next year’s event October 7 - 13, 2007. *CM Week 2007* information will be posted to www.cmsa.org/cmweek as it becomes available. And don’t forget to look for new CM Week products in Spring 2007.

THANKS TO THESE NATIONAL CM WEEK SUPPORTERS

- American Association of Nurse Life Care Planners
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- American Nurses Credentialing Center
- The Center for Case Management
- Certification of Disability Management Specialists
- Commission for Case Manager Certification
- Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification
- Ontario Case Managers Association
- Utilization Review and Accreditation Commission



NATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT WEEK 2007

October 7 - 13, 2007








WE’VE MOVED!

The new address for CMSA’s National Office is:

CMSA
6301 Ranch Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72223

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