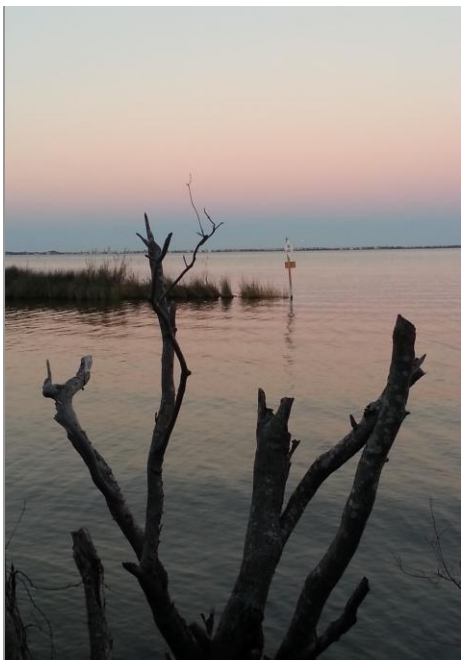


# VACVPR NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014



**COMING SOON!!!**

**New VACVPR website:**

**[www.vacvpr.com](http://www.vacvpr.com)**

**Please Note the following  
Items are attached:**

- ✓ 2015 Membership Letter
- ✓ 2015 Membership Form
- ✓ LOSSA tear off flier
- ✓ Above and Beyond  
Nomination Form
- ✓ Robin Cuffe Scholarship  
Nomination Form

**REMINDER:  
Membership is due by  
December 31, 2014**

## Save the Date !

VACVPR annual conference  
May 16-17, 2015  
Virginia Beach Oceanfront.  
Keep an eye out for more information

Wendy Taylor, MS  
Riverside Shore Cardiopulmonary Wellness  
[Wendy.taylor@rivhs.com](mailto:Wendy.taylor@rivhs.com)

**Vice President**

**Judy Brandenburg, RN-BC**

On October 4 2014, Centra-Cardiopulmonary Rehab in Lynchburg VA, hosted the first regional workshop of 2014. 32 were in attendance; the speakers were: Gerilynn Connors presented on Pulmonary rehab reimbursement, Dr. Rennyson educated us on CHF and Lynn Ramberg presented on weight management. Beth Jones who was one of the coordinators of the workshop says, ' It was fun to be involved in the regional meeting. We had a great team from Centra that worked together, so it all came together easily.'

If you are interested in hosting a workshop in your area please call me at 434-447-3151 ext 3218. We will help you in any way we can.



VACVPR  
PO Box 552  
Stanardsville, VA 22973

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## Call for Nominations

- Looking for a chance to have your voice heard?
- Searching for a team that just won't quit?
- Want to be part of an exciting line-up?
- Are you a lover of possibilities?
- Have you always wanted to be a change-agent?
- Do you want an avenue to explore and share new ideas?
- Has your expertise gotten lost in the daily routine?
- Do you like to travel?

***Well, have I got an answer for you!***

The VACVPR is looking for a few good folks that are searching for an opportunity for the above and to become more active within the state organization. If you, or you know of someone, that would make a great addition to your VACVPR Board of Directors, please give a shout out to me, Mary R. Davis, at

[MRD8S@virginia.edu](mailto:MRD8S@virginia.edu)

We are currently ISO:  
President-Elect  
Vice President  
Secretary

If any questions re: the duties, please let me know. I could connect you with one of our current or past Board Members for further information on the details of a particular position. I have been President-Elect, President and Vice President in the past and can assure you, the success is in the 100% team effort and support.

**Nominations needed by  
mid-December**



## Above And Beyond...

- Compassion
- Dedication
- Creativity
- Thinks out of the Box
- Doesn't take NO for an answer

**Look around you.** Surely you know someone who fits these descriptive words. The time has come to call for nominations for the upcoming annual 2015 VACVPR Above and Beyond Award. This award is presented to a member of the VACVPR who demonstrates a desire to make a difference in their cardiopulmonary program. A person that has new ideas for services for their program, patients, or coworkers. A member who takes their profession to the next level by enlightening fellow healthcare workers and/or the community to the benefits of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation. Someone that gets off the bench and plays hard every day. Do you know someone like that? Someone that deserves to be recognized for their commitment? The nominee will receive a VACVPR membership for the upcoming year and the registration for the annual VACVPR conference at no charge. The nominee must be an active VACVPR member and cannot be a member of the VACVPR Board. The nomination may be made by directors, supervisors, managers, coworkers, or patients. **Look around you.** Then send us a name by January 2015. Selection will be made February 2015.

Send to [MRD8S@virginia.edu](mailto:MRD8S@virginia.edu) Thanks so much, Mary R. Davis

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## News from the Past President:

Gerilynn Connors BS, RRT, MAACVPR, FAARC

Autumn is here, another Great VACVPR Workshop was offered in Lynchburg this past Saturday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and there are a number of items in MAC11 Palmetto GBA that you need to know about:

1. Go to this Palmetto GBA website for the latest Local Coverage Policy (LCD) information: [http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/indexes/lcd-list.aspx?Cntrctr=231&name=Palmetto%20GBA%20\(11301,%20MAC%20-%20Part%20A\)&DocType=All&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=231\\*1&s=All&bc=AggAAAIAAAAAAAA%3d%3d&#ResultsAnchor](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/indexes/lcd-list.aspx?Cntrctr=231&name=Palmetto%20GBA%20(11301,%20MAC%20-%20Part%20A)&DocType=All&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=231*1&s=All&bc=AggAAAIAAAAAAAA%3d%3d&#ResultsAnchor)
  - a. **Download the latest Cardiac Rehab LCD # L32872, effective 9-25-14**
  - b. Download the FUTURE 2015 Cardiac Rehab LCD # L34412
  - c. **Download the Respiratory Therapy LCD # L31593 effective 3-27-14**
  - d. Download the FUTURE 2015 Respiratory Therapy LCD # L34430
2. **OCT 16, 2014 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET**, Palmetto GBA - Jurisdiction 11 Part A – has a **Ask the Contractor Conference Call: Specialized Topic: Pulmonary Rehabilitation**
  - a. Go to the following website to get information, know how to submit your questions and join the call: [http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/Jurisdiction%2011%20Part%20A~9PHQH86482?opendocument&utm\\_source=J11AL&utm\\_campaign=J11ALs&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/Jurisdiction%2011%20Part%20A~9PHQH86482?opendocument&utm_source=J11AL&utm_campaign=J11ALs&utm_medium=email)
3. **Do your oxygen patients tell you they are having trouble getting their oxygen needs met at home through their DME company? If the answer is yes PLEASE have your patients call: THE COPD FOUNDATION on the COPD Information Line at 1-866-316-COPD (2673)**
  - a. The COPD Foundation is tracking ALL oxygen therapy issues, concerns and problems from patients who are having problems with their home oxygen supplies from low flow to high flow oxygen. And it DOES NOT MATTER what their lung disease is. Please have them call the COPD Information line, the oxygen problems are being tracked by the COPD Foundation and the COPD Foundation is sending the Home Oxygen Therapy concerns to CMS.
4. **NIH Research that your patients can get involved in, no matter where they may live.**
  - a. Asthmatics with severe or difficult-to-control disease may be eligible to participate in a research study at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), located in Bethesda, Maryland. Eligible participants may undergo a comprehensive evaluation by an asthma specialist. There is no cost for participating in a study. Travel expenses may be provided consistent with NIH guidelines. To learn more about participating in an asthma research study at the NHLBI, NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland, please call our asthma research coordinators at (301)451-5916 or (301)443-7685 or email us at [nhlbi\\_lungstudy@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:nhlbi_lungstudy@nhlbi.nih.gov)<[mailto:nhlbi\\_lungstudy@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:nhlbi_lungstudy@nhlbi.nih.gov)><[mailto:nhlbi\\_lungstudy@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:nhlbi_lungstudy@nhlbi.nih.gov)>. You can also visit us on line at: <http://patientrecruitment.nhlbi.nih.gov/CC/asthma-research.htm><<https://mail.nih.gov/owa/redir.aspx?C=-K6DDQvnTE2H6UzyiAFQ64LEMCAsPNEIrnflni8Nab2ChquCRHhnNmxc14VZZWq0xqMMNosArho.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fpatientrecruitment.nhlbi.nih.gov%2fCC%2fasthma-research.htm>>
  - b. See the attached Asthma Research Flyer titled: LOSSA flier tear off, that you can post for your patients

**Have a WONDERFUL Thanksgiving to you and your family and hope to see you all at the next VACVPR Workshop.**

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## What is the 2014 Top Reason for Medicare Denials in Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation?

Missing KX Modifier!!!

CMS tracks CR and PR sessions and counts each differently. As you know, PR has a limit of 72 sessions in a person's Medicare lifetime and starts at 72 and counts back towards zero. Further sessions will be denied. CR is covered by Medicare for up to 36 sessions per event with no lifetime or per year limitation. Therefore, CMS starts CR tracking with 1 with no upper limit.

As you are probably aware, this "count" includes any previous sessions a patient may have had at another facility. This has been in effect since January 2010. That is the count which determines when the need for the KX modifier takes effect. All MACs use claims processing software that tracks sessions and consequently triggers either denial or payment.

The KX modifier rule is the same, whether CR or PR. All sessions after 36 require this modifier.

More discussion on the appropriate use of the KX modifier can be found on the CR and PR FAQ web pages.

For CR: CMS Change Request 6850, Transmittal 170

For PR: CMS Change Request 6823, Transmittal 1966

Your billing office should be communicating all denials and lack of modifier should be considered a potential reason if the diagnosis meets CMS eligibility criteria. There is a 30-day window for appeal, so if a missing KX modifier is the reason, prompt re-submission of the denied claim with the modifier attached should result in reimbursement.

This is a synopsis of the AACVPR Headquarters site

Submitted by Mary R. Davis



### The Robin Cuffe Scholarship

Do you remember your first professional educational experience? I bet you found it exciting to get the latest up-to-date information, meet new colleagues, experience the art of networking, learn pertinent tools of the trade to share with your coworkers. Who wouldn't love the opportunity to attend the VACVPR conference to take in the above and so much more? Robin Cuffe was instrumental in helping to build the VACVPR. I met Robin years ago when I first joined the VACVPR. Her passion for the cause lit a spark for me then that has only grown since. Her love for and dedication to this organization was immense, her commitment extraordinary. She shared the same compassion with the national organization, AACVPR. Her desire was to promote VACVPR in every way. After the loss of Robin in 2007, her husband wanted to honor her by providing the possibility of having someone attend the annual conference, putting financial constraints aside. Thus this

special scholarship was founded and many memorial contributions have been added along the way.

Think of someone that has not had the opportunity to attend our conference in the recent past, or ever. This is a good opportunity for those new in the field of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation to be encouraged to become more involved in their practice and perhaps get involved at the state level. Fresh ideas can only enhance our organization's possibilities.

With so many changes in hospital budgets, many folks are left behind. This is a chance for a deserving individual to participate in a great association. The scholarship covers VACVPR membership, conference registration fee, and some monies for miscellaneous expenses.

**Submit your nominee for the  
Robin J. Cuffe Scholarship by January 2015 to :**  
[MRD8S@virginia.edu](mailto:MRD8S@virginia.edu).

Thanks so much for your efforts, Mary R. Davis