



Post Office Box 50
12007 Courthouse Circle
New Kent, Virginia 23124-0050
Tel: (804) 966-9683
Fax: (804) 966-9370

News Release

Media Contact: Krista Jones
Phone: (804) 966-9683
E-mail: kmjones@co.newkent.state.va.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12:00 P.M. EDT
November 30, 2009

New Kent Fire-Rescue employees honored at Certified Ambulance Coder program graduation

NEW KENT VIRGINIA, NOVEMBER 30, 2009: Just one year after the National Academy of Ambulance Coding (NAAC[®]) announced the first Certified Ambulance Coder (CAC[™]) program in the nation, over 100 graduates were honored for their achievement during special ceremonies held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA, two of which are New Kent Fire-Rescue employees. Lisa Atkins, New Kent's EMS Division Captain and Becky West, Administrative Assistant to the New Kent Fire-Rescue, both successfully completed an intense online course for ambulance billing and coding and are now Certified Ambulance Coders (CAC). This is a big accomplishment for New Kent County as what has been learned will be used towards the Fire-Rescue revenue recovery program.

Although hundreds of ambulance billing professionals nationwide have completed the CAC[™] program, those who participated in the October 21, 2009 formal graduation ceremony were in Hershey to attend the Ambulance

~ MORE ~

Billing, Coding and Compliance Clinic (ABC3), a two-day national conference focused on legally compliant reimbursement practices.

"We are excited to see new educational opportunities in a rapidly changing profession that relate directly to improving our abilities to provide quality services to the citizens of New Kent," said Tommy Hicks, Fire Chief.

Graduates complete an intensive training program consisting of over 25 separate courses that cover subjects including proper insurance coding procedures, anatomy, medical terminology, legal compliance, and ambulance claim processing procedures. It is the only national certification specifically for ambulance service billers, a rapidly growing medical office profession.

"The program emphasizes the importance of accurate billing and the proper submission of ambulance claims to Medicare, Medicaid and other payors, which is a complex area of health care billing, fraught with many unique regulations and rules" said Steve Johnson, Executive Director of the Academy.

-End-