We like to stay on top of our game, which is one of the reasons we became ACMPE Fellows. We found that learning from our peers, who develop questions for and grade the examinations with guidance from psychometric experts, provided an unparalleled perspective on medical group practice management.

Every once in a while, it’s fun to go back and take quizzes in the eight domains of the Body of Knowledge for Medical Practice Executives (BOK), which are posted at mgma.com/bok. You can, as the text reads, “rate yourself” and get helpful reminders of how many pieces and parts must mesh seamlessly in a practice to ensure high-quality patient care.

To achieve operational success, MGMA-ACMPE is developing new tools and educational content to help you stay ahead of the pack. Our intent is to harness Association data to create practical tools and educational resources to develop meaningful “how-to” content. During the MGMA 2012 Annual Conference in San Antonio, we will release an online interactive analysis application that will help identify how changes to the physician fee schedule impact your bottom line. The tool, which will allow you to upload your physician’s or practice’s procedural experience, has the 2012 and proposed 2013 physician fee schedule embedded in it. In turn, the application will compute your 2012 and 2013 RVUs to provide a projected impact.

Instead of just saying “Batten down the hatches,” we help you identify areas of vulnerability so you can protect your organization.

That is a renewed commitment to you moving forward. MGMA-ACMPE is a more nimble Association that combines the rigor of certification with the ability to develop timely tools that help members handle specific, tangible problems in practice.

One of the things we have learned is that preparing for the future is a key component to success. Gaining knowledge of our complicated environment enables us to identify issues early and respond in a timely, effective manner. The BOK, which covers all topics relating to practice management, offers an ideal resource for well-rounded administrators who quickly prove they are worth their weight in gold when it comes to covering areas of vulnerability that would — otherwise — put a practice at risk.

What you discover is that tapping MGMA-ACMPE references elevates you to a superior position in the eyes of physicians and staff, who see how well prepared you are for different situations. We describe ACMPE as the pinnacle of learning in our profession. You not only pass a rigorous exam, you write and publish a professional paper that illustrates to others how well prepared you are and how that superior knowledge base sets your practice apart. Nancy and I took the initiative to become ACMPE Fellows. We invested the time and energy in this exceptional program, and we have never been disappointed.

We were excited to hear about the new tools that will soon be launched by the Association because they illustrate the type of forward-thinking approach that sets us apart — as ACMPE Fellows and MGMA-ACMPE members. Todd Everson, director, MGMA-ACMPE Data Solutions, is focused on providing new tools that will place more power in your hands as decision-makers.

Moving forward, expect to see tools that will help you develop “what-if” scenarios for changes to the sustainable growth rate formula, which loom on the horizon.

By Cheryl Erins, MBA, FACMPE, MGMA-ACMPE Board co-chair, health consultant, Sinai Medical Group, Chicago, cerins10812@comcast.net; and Nancy Babbitt, FACMPE, MGMA-ACMPE Board co-chair, consultant, Babbitt and Associates, Cumming, Ga., babbittnc@aol.com
and other timely tools that will help you streamline your practice.

Evenson will produce how-to videos for each new tool, which will be available on the Interactive Tools page online (mgma.com/benchmarking). We hope you’ll check out the new tools and let us know how you’re using them.

It’s hard to believe, but this will be our last column for MGMA Connexion magazine. We have enjoyed our tenure as your Board co-chairs and see exciting times ahead for the Association and the industry. We look forward to seeing you at the conference in San Antonio and listening in on the panel discussion that features several industry leaders, including Susan Turney, MD, MS, FACMPE, FACP, president and chief executive officer of MGMA-ACMPE.

You can read more about the panel — which comprises leaders from the physician, employer, hospital and insurance realms — at mgma.com/mgma121012CC. You can submit questions for the panel to consider via connexion@mgma.com. Be sure to put “panel questions” in the subject line. Although we cannot promise that all of your questions will be addressed during the conference, we will make sure all questions are considered.

Hearing your voices — whether it’s through questions to the panel, reactions to new tools or simply sending ideas for consideration — is what makes MGMA-ACMPE a unique and vibrant association.

We realize that membership in MGMA-ACMPE is more than the sum of its parts. It’s more than the educational sessions and tools offered throughout the year; it’s bigger than the networking opportunities we have with the best and brightest in our industry — some of whom we will acknowledge through the awards program at Annual Conference. It really boils down to a sense of community, support and the knowledge that together we make a difference — in Washington, D.C., and in each one of our practices where patients receive better care because of the information we share, the tools we use and the colleagues with whom we confer. We like to stay on top of our game, to challenge ourselves. That’s why we are here with you. And as we pass the baton to your incoming Board co-chairs — David Taylor, FACMPE, FACHE; and William Henderson, FACMPE — we will continue to represent your interests to the Board and work to create a better healthcare environment.

Notes:
1. Psychometrics: The field of study concerned with the theory and technique of psychological measurement, which includes the measurement of knowledge, abilities, attitudes, personality traits and educational measurement. (Wikipedia).