



In this Issue:

- SNF 3-Day rule Waiver
- Quality Coordinator Spotlight
- Security
- CARE Chest
- Provider Manual
- Practice Meetings – Important Information re: May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Northern Nevada!

#VegasStrong



Visit our Website  
[www.silverstateaco.com](http://www.silverstateaco.com)

Contact Us:  
(702) 800-7084  
(775) 391-6484  
Compliance Line:  
(702) 751-0834

SilverStateACO@  
[SilverStateACO.com](mailto:SilverStateACO.com)

SNF 3-DAY RULE WAIVER

Historically, (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) CMS rules have required that, in order for CMS to pay for a patient stay in a skilled nursing facility (“SNF”), the patient must have *first* been in the hospital for a minimum of three days immediately prior to the transfer.

In 2017, CMS realized the shortcomings of this policy, recognizing that there are often patients who need some care, particularly in managing chronic conditions, but who certainly do not require three days in an acute facility. And so, CMS now allows certain entities, including ACOs, to apply for a waiver to the 3-day stay rule. The waiver allows the entity’s beneficiaries to be admitted directly to a SNF, for which CMS will pay.

Silver State ACO applied for, and was granted, a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver which became effective on January 1, 2020.

During the years of the COVID pandemic, CMS granted a *blanket* 3-day Rule Waiver to all providers and facilities and, therefore, SSACO’s waiver became, in essence, unnecessary. However, now that the pandemic rules have ended, SSACO’s waiver has become a very valuable tool. Providers (including hospitalists) who identify a patient who does not require an inpatient stay, but who would benefit from the care and services provided by a SNF, can now request a direct admit for the patient to a SNF, using the Silver State ACO 3-day waiver.

There are certain requirements and limitations, including that the SNF has to be one that has signed an Affiliate Agreement with SSACO, as per CMS rules. The SNF must have –and maintain – an overall rating of at least three stars; the patient must meet all requirements (other than the 3-day stay) for admission to a SNF; and the patient must also be presented with a Beneficiary



**NOTE:**

Next Practice Meeting:  
Southern Nevada  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Northern Nevada:  
Thursday, May 2, 2024

Visit our Website  
[www.silverstateaco.com](http://www.silverstateaco.com)  
Newsletters, who we are,  
who our members are,  
preferred providers,  
hospitalists, board of  
directors, management,  
results.

Contact Us:  
(702) 800-7084  
(775) 391-6484  
Compliance Line:  
(702) 751-0834

SilverStateACO@  
SilverStateACO.com

Alyssa, Amanda, Brett,  
Dineen, Jacquie, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Jessica W., Larry,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Richelle, Savannah



Notice, composed by CMS, which details the process and the patient's rights. A copy of the Beneficiary Notice is attached.

Silver State ACO applied for the waiver because we believe that SNF services may be very beneficial to certain patients. Where indicated and appropriate, we implore our practices to consider referring a patient to a SNF (if those are the services needed) rather than recommending that the patient seek care at an emergency room,



which could lead to an (unnecessary) admission to the hospital. SSACO has made it easy for providers to do so by creating an "Implementation Plan", a copy of which is attached to this newsletter's email. Perhaps even more helpful is the ability to reach out directly to ARKOS, SSACO's Care Coordination team, or to SSACO personnel for assistance with the entire process, including interacting with the SNF and any necessary paperwork.

A list of the SNFs available for use with the SSACO waiver is also attached. Please note that the list may change based on star ratings and/or changes in CMS rules.

For further details or to refer a patient, please call Tarra Cortez at ARKOS (833-208-0588) or Rena Kantor at SSACO (702-751-0945), Additional details (and forms) are included as Section S of the SSACO 2024 Provider Manual.

## QUALITY COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT

With the creation of Silver State ACO in 2014, leadership was posed with a unique challenge - how to supply education and meaningful information on an ongoing basis to participating practices. Leadership wanted an approach that would provide continuous support and assistance, alleviating some of the burdens that most practices face when it comes to quality reporting. The Silver State ACO Quality Coordinator team was assembled with this goal in mind.

Quality Coordinators (QCs) are trained staff who are educated on the details of what CMS requires from an ACO in regard to quality reporting. This includes, but is not limited to, quality measure specifications, parameters, and exclusions. Each participating practice has its own designated QC who works alongside them in an effort to identify gaps in care, provide feedback, and determine areas for improvement.



## SPOTLIGHT

**NOTE:**

Next Practice Meeting:  
Southern Nevada  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Northern Nevada:  
Thursday, May 2, 2024

Visit our Website

[www.silverstateaco.com](http://www.silverstateaco.com)

*Newsletters, who we are,  
who our members are,  
preferred providers,  
hospitalists, board of  
directors, management,  
results.*

Contact Us:

(702) 800-7084

(775) 391-6484

Compliance Line:

(702) 751-0834

SilverStateACO@

SilverStateACO.com

Alyssa, Amanda, Brett,  
Dineen, Jacquie, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Jessica W., Larry,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Richelle, Savannah



Additionally, QCs make it their priority to support their practices by:

- Reviewing medical records of attributed patients for CMS Quality Measure data
- Identifying trends and opportunities for improvement
- Assisting with developing plans to meet quality goals
- Discussing potential revenue streams such as Annual Wellness Visits, Transitional Care Management Visits and Chronic Care Management
- Providing training to all practice staff on CMS quality measures and on utilizing ACO provided tools (e.g. Clinigence, IllumiCare, Experian)
- Outlining ways to reduce utilization and improve patient outcomes
- Providing MIPS support including how to meet and report Promoting Interoperability



From left to right: Dineen Caseday, Alyssa Reid, Martha Sutton, Richelle Heater, Brett Slizeski, Amanda Almache, Linda Casco, and Jessica Aquino (Not pictured: Savannah Rittenhouse and Jessica Wright).

The SSACO Quality Coordinator team is made up of ten extraordinary members. Each has his/her own distinctive skills and background that contributes to the success of our practices. Not only do they understand SSACO's culture, values, and goals, but the connections they build with their practices inspires trust which can be measured by the improvement each practice has shown throughout the years.

If you or anyone at your practice requires assistance or has any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on our amazing team!

**NOTE:**

Next Practice Meeting:  
Southern Nevada  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Northern Nevada:  
Thursday, May 2, 2024

Visit our Website

[www.silverstateaco.com](http://www.silverstateaco.com)

Newsletters, who we are,  
who our members are,  
preferred providers,  
hospitalists, board of  
directors, management,  
results.

Contact Us:

(702) 800-7084

(775) 391-6484

Compliance Line:

(702) 751-0834

[SilverStateACO@](mailto:SilverStateACO@SilverStateACO.com)

[SilverStateACO.com](http://SilverStateACO.com)

Alyssa, Amanda, Brett,  
Dineen, Jacquie, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Jessica W., Larry,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Richelle, Savannah



## SECURITY REMINDER: REMAIN VIGILANT!

Now that Spring has sprung, with its feeling of fun and freshness, DON'T let your guard down! Scammers and internet hackers are as busy as ever. But there are many DOs:

- ✓ DO remain vigilant about securing PHI. Install and/or check security screens on your computers.
- ✓ DO check every new prospective employee against the OIG's list of excluded individuals.
- ✓ DO review when each employee most recently completed CMS Fraud and Abuse Training.
- ✓ DO let your employees and vendors know that you "mean business" when it comes to security and compliance. Follow through on any reported issues or warnings.
- ✓ DO report any suspected issues relating to your dealings with Silver State ACO to its dedicated Compliance Line: 702-751-0834. This line is available to *anyone* for secure reporting of any suspected compliance issues, *without fear of retribution*.



## SSACO PHYSICIANS SHARE with – CARE Chest

The Board of Directors of Silver State ACO is tasked with the overall responsibility for all aspects of Silver State ACO. As in years past, the Board announced its intention to share SSACO's success with those less fortunate.

The Board reviewed recommendations for worthy charities specifying that they need to benefit those in the state of Nevada, be highly rated and carefully vetted. In January, we reported on a \$5,000 donation made to Three Square. A donation of \$5,000 was also made to CARE Chest, where representatives of SSACO's management team recently visited.



**NOTE:**

Next Practice Meeting:  
Southern Nevada  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Northern Nevada:  
Thursday, May 2, 2024

Visit our Website

[www.silverstateaco.com](http://www.silverstateaco.com)  
Newsletters, who we are,  
who our members are,  
preferred providers,  
hospitalists, board of  
directors, management,  
results.

Contact Us:  
(702) 800-7084  
(775) 391-6484  
Compliance Line:  
(702) 751-0834

SilverStateACO@  
SilverStateACO.com

Alyssa, Amanda, Brett,  
Dineen, Jacquie, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Jessica W., Larry,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Richelle, Savannah



CARE Chest is a Nevada nonprofit agency that provides medical supplies and equipment to qualifying consumers, free of charge. The organization was founded in 1990 by three pharmacists in Reno who recognized the need for an accessible/affordable resource for medical supplies and equipment. Built on the principles of reusing and recycling gently used durable medical equipment, the organization has now expanded to serve 42 communities across the state. With facilities in Reno and Las Vegas, CARE Chest distributed over 33,000 items in 2023, serving over 20,300 Nevadans.



CARE Chest’s Medical Resource Programming serves Nevadans at or below 138% of the federal poverty level. CARE Chest’s Medical Equipment and Supplies program lends durable medical equipment to consumers for as long as it’s needed. The organization also provides supplies for wound care, diabetic needs, supplemental nutrition, over the counter medications, and independent living assistive technology.

CARE Chest has been able to provide free medical resources to Nevadans in need for 34 years thanks to the generosity of the community. Silver State ACO is proud to contribute to this outstanding organization, helping provide assistance to patients even outside the office or clinic.



### PROVIDER MANUAL

Last month, the Silver State ACO 2024 Provider Manual was emailed to each Participant Practice. As the Manual is an extremely large file, it was broken down into five individual sections, each emailed separately. The second section was still too large for some servers and, upon request, was re-sent individually as sections 2A and 2B.

Please check to be sure that you received all sections of the Provider Manual. It contains information on the services, protocols and systems used by Silver State ACO, as well as additional useful information and hints on best practices, CMS quality reporting requirements, and billing detail. It is a valuable reference guide.

If you think this is a repeat of last month’s article, it is not. It is also an invitation to enter to win a prize at the next practice meeting.



**NOTE:**

Next Practice Meeting:  
Southern Nevada  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Northern Nevada:  
Thursday, May 2, 2024

Visit our Website

[www.silverstateaco.com](http://www.silverstateaco.com)  
Newsletters, who we are,  
who our members are,  
preferred providers,  
hospitalists, board of  
directors, management,  
results.

Contact Us:  
(702) 800-7084  
(775) 391-6484  
Compliance Line:  
(702) 751-0834

SilverStateACO@  
SilverStateACO.com

Alyssa, Amanda, Brett,  
Dineen, Jacquie, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Jessica W., Larry,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Richelle, Savannah



Simply respond to the email to which this newsletter was attached with the words "I read the April newsletter carefully."

**PRACTICE MEETINGS**

Please be sure to join us at each of the remaining meetings in 2024. They are a great opportunity to meet other SSACO Participant practices; to learn about new CMS directives, rules and regulations; and a great chance to ask questions and / or get clarification on issues that may be affecting many practices.



**SOUTHERN NEVADA**

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

All Southern Nevada Practice meetings will be held at Summerlin Hospital and begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is served.

**NORTHERN NEVADA**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

**The May 2<sup>nd</sup> practice meeting will be held at the National Auto Museum at 5 pm, immediately preceding the Silver State ACO Northern Nevada Networking event.**

The event is free and allows you to bring a guest. Registration is required; there will be no walk-ins allowed. We hope that you will join us. Additional information on the attached flyer.

Please register here:

**RSVP HERE**

Thursday, August 1, 2024

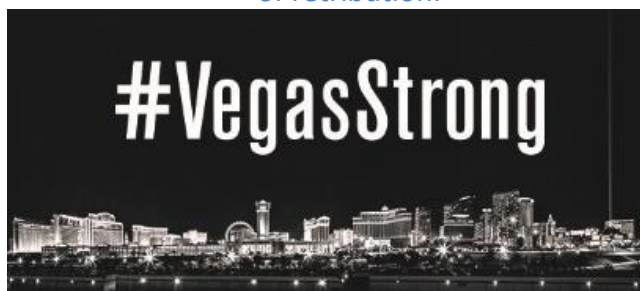
Thursday, November 7, 2024

All Northern Nevada Practice Meetings will be held at Northern Nevada Sparks Medical Building, Suite 201. Meet & Greet begins at 5 pm; Meeting begins at 5:30.

**SILVER STATE ACO Compliance Line:**

**702-751-0834**

Available for secure reporting of any suspected compliance issues, without fear of retribution.



To cancel receiving the monthly Silver State ACO Newsletter please respond with "Unsubscribe" in the subject box.