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## Preliminary Beneficiary Listing from CMS

Silver State ACO now has over 15,000 beneficiaries for 2015! Keep in mind that CMS makes the decision as to whom to attribute a patient, based on the number of visits made to each of the patient's providers. The beneficiary listing changes quarterly.

We need your help. One of the benefits of being part of an ACO is the ability to view claims data on patients within the ACO. CMS requires that the patient be notified that his/her doctor is part of an ACO, and be given the opportunity to "opt out. Silver State ACO will have notification letters mailed to the new beneficiaries. We need your help in gathering mailing addresses. For new groups, who have joined effective January 1, 2015, it is easiest to download basic data for all your Medicare patients. Then, Health Endeavors, our IT firm, will match the attributed beneficiaries, extract the beneficiary mailing addresses, and send the letters on your behalf. Practices who joined in 2014 will have the option of doing the same, or of simply providing addresses for those patients who are newly attributed to the practice.

## GPRO Update



CMS has now opened the GPRO filing portal, allowing practices to begin their quality reporting. Participant members of Silver State ACO can no longer report through PQRS, but *must* report through GPRO. Silver State ACO is doing the reporting, on behalf of members, though the Health Endeavors website.

Silver State ACO has, overall, completed over 50% of our required sampling. THANK YOU to the practices who have been so cooperative, either by having on-site personnel learn their system and input the information directly, or by allowing SSACO staff to access the necessary records to complete the quality measure questions on their behalf.

A representative of SSACO will be contacting **all** practices within the next week. We have printouts of questions, by patient, that CMS has designated as part of the sample for quality measures. Note: Keep in mind that SSACO has no control over who, or how many, of a practice's patients are selected as part of the sample. All names and questions are designated by CMS.

March 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for filing quality measures for 2014, through GPRO. Silver State ACO will continue to assist each practice in preparing for 2015 by making suggestions for changes to protocol,

questionnaires, etc., to reflect what CMS has published, and continues to refine, as quality measures reporting for 2015.

Another part of the quality measures reporting is the CAHPS survey. Again, CMS designates which of the beneficiaries will be contacted and interviewed about their experience with the doctor and the practice. SSACO has contracted with HealthStream, a CMS approved vendor, to do these surveys. HealthStream received the sample listing from CMS in late October, and began sending letters to the beneficiaries in November. They will follow up with phone calls, if needed (for those beneficiaries who do not respond or who inaccurately complete the mail survey) during January. The collection of data is closed, and data submitted to CMS, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Within 30 days, HealthStream will prepare a written report for the ACO. The results will also be published online. Neither the practice nor the ACO will ever be provided with information as to which patients were surveyed.

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## Breakfast Meetings

Our next Practice Managers' meeting will take place on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am, at Spring Valley Hospital.

Help us make these meetings more meaningful for you by letting us know what topics you would like covered.

At our last meeting, on January 21<sup>st</sup>, we reviewed the filing of GPRO, and how practices can log in to the Health Endeavors website in order to complete quality measures filing on their own. Note that although a practice can complete the questionnaire online, actual filing (sending the information to CMS) can only be done by Health Endeavors. Although each practice can see its' scores, CMS grades the ACO, as a whole. Should anyone want a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, please let us know.