



Powered by The Valley Health System and Kindred Hospitals



January 2025

Newsletter

Volume 115

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#VegasStrong



Visit our Website

www.silverstateaco.com

Contact Us:

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Compliance Line:

(702) 751-0834

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

The beginning of a new year is always a good time for introspection. What have we done right, what have we done wrong? How can we build on our strengths? How do we strive to change weaknesses to improve overall? These processes are true for both individuals as well as for companies and groups.

At Silver State ACO, we have been blessed with outstanding Participants and Partners, helping us to earn shared savings for nine years in a row! During the last quarter of 2024 we had the privilege to deliver checks to our 2023 Participants. We won't know the results for 2024 until late in 2025. What we do know is that we have worked hard to help our practices and guide them with the best knowledge and advice we've gathered. We also know that we feel privileged and grateful to all those who have been a part of this journey.

Please be sure to work with your quality coordinators during January and February, as they begin the task of collecting data and reviewing documentation for the patients listed by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) for 2024 quality reporting.

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MOVING ON TO 2025: WELCOME OUR NEW Participant Practices

For 2025, Silver State ACO ("SSACO") will be comprised of 48 participant practices, representing over 900 providers. Please welcome the new participant practices joining us for 2025:



Allen Medical
David A. Johnson MD, Inc.
Lakeside Heart & Vascular Center
Reliant Physicians
St. Clare Medical



These participant practices have been carefully selected. They meet not only strict CMS guidelines, but also Silver State ACO standards. We have been successful because of the contribution of each participant practice and team member. We believe that each of the participant practices joining us this year will be a beneficial addition.

One of the new participant practices is in Arizona as Silver State ACO's presence is expanded in that area. Remember that you can learn more about all SSACO participant practices, including provider listing, address and phone numbers, by referring to our [website](#).

Gap Closure Contest Winners Announced!

In November, we introduced the Gap Closure Contest, an initiative aimed at celebrating and rewarding practices that go above and beyond in closing gaps in CMS-required quality metrics. The contest not only encouraged practices to enhance their quality scores but also provided an opportunity to improve patient care, all while competing for a prize pool of up to \$21,000.

Throughout the year, our Quality Coordinators work closely with practices, reviewing medical records and providing Gap in Care Reports monthly to identify patients who may be missing key elements of care. To build on these efforts and finish the year strong, the contest was held from November 1st through November 22nd, targeting several key quality measures.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all practices that participated, this year's contest achieved impressive milestones. Over 18% of total gaps were closed which included:

- 1,644 Fall Risk Screenings
- 124 Diabetes A1c Screenings
- 654 Controlled Blood Pressure Measurements

NOTE:

Next Practice Meeting:
Southern Nevada
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025

Northern Nevada:
Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025

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- 191 Breast Cancer Screenings
- 903 Colorectal Cancer Screenings
- 166 Tobacco Screenings & Cessations
- 2,164 Depression Screenings

Today, we are thrilled to announce the winners and celebrate their incredible efforts!

Fall Risk Screening

- By Percentage: Dr. B Bottenberg, DO
- By Total: Carson Medical Group

Diabetes A1c Poor Control

- By Percentage: Paragon Medical Associates
- By Total: Carson Tahoe Medical Group

Controlling High Blood Pressure

- By Percentage: Vista Family Medicine
- By Total: Carson Tahoe Medical Group

Breast Cancer Screening

- By Percentage: Daulat Medical Center
- By Total: Carson Tahoe Medical Group

Colorectal Cancer Screening

- By Percentage: Dr. B Bottenberg, DO
- By Total: Carson Tahoe Medical Group

Tobacco Use & Cessation

- By Percentage:
 - o Dr. B Bottenberg, DO
 - o Daulat Medical Center
 - o Decatur Family Practice
 - o Reno Family Physicians
 - o Sugar Pine Family Medicine
- By Total: Carson Tahoe Medical Group

Depression Screening and Follow-Up

- By Percentage: Dr. B Bottenberg, DO
- By Total: Carson Medical Group

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants for embracing this contest and making a meaningful impact on patient health. Your efforts have been truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing continued success and quality care improvements in the future.



Congratulations once again to **all** our winners and thank you all for your incredible hard work!

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PREFERRED PROVIDERS – REMINDER

Preferred Providers are *not* Participants or “members” of an ACO. They are facilities and providers who the ACO has identified as experts in their fields and whose goals and services align with the ACO’s mission.

Please check the Silver State ACO Preferred Provider Network listing. The most up-to-date version is always available on our [website](#), including an easily printed version.

As Medicare fee-for-service patients, the ACO’s beneficiaries can go to any provider they want for healthcare services. However, we know that if the provider with whom a patient has a long-standing, respectful, and trusting relationship makes a recommendation, the patient is likely to follow it. Please help us maintain a continuum of care by referring to a preferred provider.

Have you read this carefully? If so, to be entered to win a prize at the February practice meeting, you may respond to the newsletter email with “New Year” in the subject line.



BENEFICIARY INFORMATION POSTERS AND NOTICES

CMS requires that every ACO Participant practice post a notification in each clinic where it sees patients. CMS wants patients to be aware that their doctor’s practice is part of an ACO and what that means for their care. In addition to the poster, the practice must hand every patient a printed notice at – or before – his/her first visit of the year.



CMS has strict guidelines and verbiage for these notifications and does not allow practices to make any changes except to add the practice name and/or logo.

As 2025 is a new Agreement period for Silver State ACO, every beneficiary must receive a notice at, or before, his/her first office visit of the year. (Next year, notices will only have to be delivered to newly assigned beneficiaries.) In addition, there must be follow-up communication with these patients within 180 days of the original notice. CMS is granting flexibility to practices to decide how to implement the 180 day follow up – whether in writing or verbally. CMS has not set any specifics for tracking or proof of delivery of the notices or follow-up communication. There are

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currently no specific conditions or reporting requirements for either. Each practice may design its own system for keeping track of delivery, but we strongly recommend that a workflow be designed to do so, should CMS require proof in the future.

In its ongoing attempt to be sure that beneficiaries understand their rights, CMS updates their rules from time to time. Silver State ACO continues to follow notices and comments to/from CMS, and to request additional clarification, when needed. We will keep you apprised of any updates.

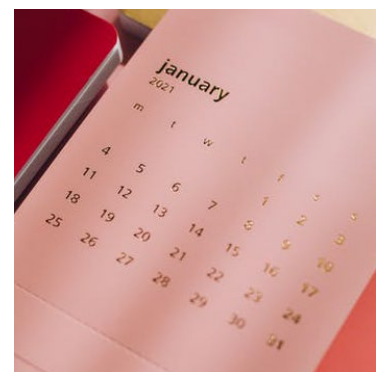
There are numerous templates attached to this email. First, each document is provided in both English and Spanish. (CMS makes them available in Spanish but practices are not required to post both.) In addition, each of the documents has two versions, one of which contains “without portal” in the file name. If you have a secure online portal, you want to use the other files (simply named “Poster Template” and “Beneficiary Information Notification Template”). Within the body of those documents there’s reference to “ask about signing up for our secure online portal” in bold print. You certainly want your patients to know about your portal, and to use it. If you don’t have a portal... you should! Those practices that do not have a portal should use the templates with “no portal” in the file name. Be sure to use the correct template for your practice.

Please be sure to complete each of the templates with your practice name where indicated at the top and the office phone number where indicated at the end of the document. Practices are required to display the current version of the poster and to use the current beneficiary information notice. CMS does not permit use of older versions of either document.

Also attached to this email are two files, developed by CMS, to help practices explain the beneficiary information notice to their beneficiaries. If you have any questions about templates or posters, please contact Rena Kantor at 702-751-0945.

Compliance Reminder – OIG List

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintains a list of individuals and entities who are excluded from federally funded health care programs. The beginning of the year is an excellent time to review your employee roster against the OIG listing, found [here](#).



A practice may not employ anyone who is on the OIG List of excluded individuals.

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Holiday Mixer Recaps

We celebrated the holidays at the annual Nevada Healthcare Forum Holiday Mixers. The Southern NV Holiday Mixer was held on Thursday, December 5th at Sierra Gold with over 100 people in attendance and over 300 toys were donated to the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation.



Pictured left attendees at the southern Nevada Holiday Mixer.

Pictured right Larry Preston dropping off toys.



The Northern NV Holiday Mixer was held on Tuesday, December 3rd at Mellow Fellow with 30 people in attendance. We were able to donate over 40 toys to the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.

Pictured on the left Dave Schweer with attendees at the Northern NV Holiday Mixer.





Northern NV Holiday Mixer Pictured above from left to right: Rob Swisher (MedRevenu), Wayne Weber (USI), Mitchell Fong (Innovise Consulting), and Dennis Bass (USI).

2025 Quarterly Practice Meeting Dates



SOUTHERN NEVADA

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025

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

NORTHERN NEVADA

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025

*Thursday, May 1, 2025 (at Carson Tahoe Medical Center)

Thursday, July 31, 2025

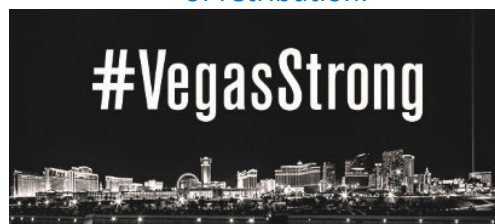
Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

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

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



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