



## In this Issue:

- PHE Extended
- Gap in Care Contests
- Spotlight on Quality
- Health Insurance Plan Offer
- Compliance
- 2021 Practice Meetings Calendar
- Resources

Visit our Website

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

Contact Us:

(702) 800-7084

(775) 391-6484

Compliance Line:

(702) 751-0834

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

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

## **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY EXTENDED**

On October 2nd, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services extended the Public Health Emergency (PHE) across the United States for an additional ninety days. This means that you may continue to use any systems you've put in place during the PHE which might otherwise not be allowed or payable, at least until January 2021.

## **GAP IN CARE CONTESTS**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) in order to lower costs while providing quality care to Medicare beneficiaries. They incentivize practices and providers to prove the value of their care. Silver State ACO has been successful and earned shared savings for five years in a row. In each year, we have lowered costs. But that would not be enough. Regardless of how much money we would have saved CMS, if our quality scores were not good, we may have earned *nothing* and not been able to make distributions to our participants.

SSACO has a team of quality coordinators whose job it is to help our practices understand CMS's quality criteria as well as parameters and exclusions, if any. We decipher the information distributed by CMS and share it with our practices. We focus on closing care gaps for the patients. ACO quality coordinators share reports with the practices, pointing out where the gaps exist. This makes it easier for the practice to contact patients, research missing documents or do whatever is necessary to close the gaps in care.

SSACO, once again, is running a Gaps in Care Contest to reward practices for focusing on closing these gaps. The first contest will close on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to follow the rules, below, and submit your completed spreadsheet in time.

Next Practice Meetings:

Southern Nevada:

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021

Northern Nevada:

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021

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, Ashlee, Dineen,  
Heather, Jennifer, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Larry, Leeann,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Savannah, Sharon,  
Tina, Tommy



Watch for additional contests. Details will be emailed. There is no limit to how many of the categories or prizes you can win.

A flyer for the Silver State ACO 2020 Contest. The background is light blue with a pattern of red, white, and blue stars. The Silver State ACO logo is at the top left, with the text "Silver State ACO Accountable Care Organization" to its right. Below the logo, the text "2020 CONTEST" is written in red, followed by "October 14<sup>TH</sup> through November 13<sup>TH</sup>" in red. The main headline "WIN UP TO \$8,000" is in large blue letters. Below this, it says "We are handing out \$2,000 for each of the following **FOUR** categories..." followed by a bulleted list: "Depression Screening", "Fall Risk Assessment", "Hypertension", and "A1c". Below the list, it says "\$1,000 for the practice that completes the most per category **AND** \$1,000 for the practice that completes the highest percentage of attributed patients per category!". A red line separates this from the text "Your practice can win in one category or all four!!!". Below that, the "Rules:" section is followed by a bulleted list of requirements: "Only ACO attributed patients may qualify", "Depression Screenings **MUST** be scored and interpreted by provider to qualify", "Must submit your completed list to your Quality Coordinator no later than Friday November 13th", "Assessments must be scanned in the chart no later than Monday November 16th", and "All submission must be documented in an excel spreadsheet".

Get started today. Your quality coordinator can help guide you to the reports which will specify your group's gaps in care and make suggestions for how to get started.

Next Practice Meetings:

Southern Nevada:

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021

Northern Nevada:

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021

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, Ashlee, Dineen,  
Heather, Jennifer, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Larry, Leeann,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Savannah, Sharon,  
Tina, Tommy



## QUALITY MEASURES SPOTLIGHT

### Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation Intervention

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the ACO to report several Quality Measures on behalf of our Participant Practices. This month we are focusing on the “*Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation Intervention*” measure.

CMS requires all patients over the age of 18 to be screened for tobacco use (both smoked and smokeless tobacco use) at least once every 2 years. CMS does NOT consider Marijuana and e-cigarettes to be a form of tobacco use.



## SPOTLIGHT

If the patient uses any type of tobacco (smoked or smokeless), CMS requires that the patient receive tobacco cessation intervention at least once every 2 years. This can either be brief counseling (3 minutes or less) and/or prescriptions to assist in tobacco cessation. CMS does not consider E-cigarettes to be a type of smoking cessation. Concepts aligned with brief counseling, such as, brochures and pamphlets may be supplied to the patient if they are accompanied by verbal counseling and it is documented within the patients chart.

When auditing your charts for measure compliance, your assigned Quality Coordinator will first confirm if the patient has had a tobacco screening. If the patient has multiple tobacco screenings during the 2-year period defined by CMS, only the most recent screening will be used. If it is confirmed that the patient is a tobacco user, the Quality Coordinator will then review the patient’s encounters (starting with the most recent date of service) for a documented cessation intervention during the CMS defined time period.



NOTE: Screening for tobacco use and cessation intervention may be completed during a telehealth encounter.

Please reach out to your Quality Coordinator if you have any questions or need help meeting this measure.

## 2021 is Around the Corner...

### Does your Practice have Health Insurance?

Washoe County Medical Society (WCMS) has partnered with Prominence Health Plan to bring high-quality, affordable health insurance to medical practices across the state. Additionally, the Clark County Medical Society has created an affiliation program that extends the health insurance program to providers that practice in Clark County. As a small employer, you need a minimum of 2 (unrelated) employees to be eligible with up to 50 full-time employees to enroll into the Washoe County Medical Society Association Health Plan.

#### **WCMS Association Health Plan Highlights:**

- Designed exclusively for the employees and families of WCMS and affiliated member groups like Clark County Medical Society
- Six plan options available including HMO, HMO Freedom & PPO; groups can select up to three for employee choice
- Open access, no PCP required and no referrals required on any of the plan offerings
- Comprehensive local provider network with some plan offerings that include national network coverage outside Nevada

**Prospective groups can enroll at any time - they do NOT have to wait for their existing carrier renewal date.**

#### **Join the Prominence webinar on November 12, noon to 1 p.m.**

Prominence will host an informative session to explain:

- How Association Health Plans work
- Prominence Health Plan benefits & value-add
- Network coverage areas, including out-of-state networks
- Options for WCMS members and regional affiliates

Register for the event here >

#### **Can't Make the Webinar?**

Contact your broker or Prominence direct at *PHP-*

*GroupQuotes@uhsinc.com*. You can also find more information [here >](#)



#### Next Practice Meetings:

##### *Southern Nevada:*

*Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020*

*Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021*

##### *Northern Nevada:*

*Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020*

*Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021*

#### 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, Ashlee, Dineen, Heather, Jennifer, Jessica A., Jessica S., Larry, Leeann, Linda, Martha, Rena, Rhonda, Savannah, Sharon, Tina, Tommy*



Next Practice Meetings:

*Southern Nevada:*

*Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020*

*Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021*

*Northern Nevada:*

*Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020*

*Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021*

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, Ashlee, Dineen,  
Heather, Jennifer, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Larry, Leeann,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Savannah, Sharon,  
Tina, Tommy



## About Association Health Plans

Association Health Plans from Prominence allow small employers to join as one entity to purchase the type of coverage that is traditionally available to large group employers. This results in less expensive and richer health plan options that can then be passed along to the employee.

Prominence Health Plan is a subsidiary of Universal Health Services, Inc. (UHS), one of the nation's largest and most respected providers of hospital and healthcare services. UHS also maintains an active partnership in the Silver State ACO.

**Event Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/washoe-county-medical-society-association-health-plans-webinar-tickets-125629438031>

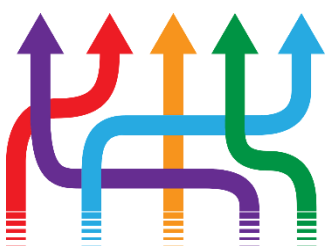
**Can't Make the Webinar section:** [https://www.wcmsnv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/10689-WCMS-2020-Custom-Benefit-Guide-8-18-20\\_T.pdf](https://www.wcmsnv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/10689-WCMS-2020-Custom-Benefit-Guide-8-18-20_T.pdf)

## COMPLIANCE Corner

Silver State ACO has a compliance plan, but each individual practice must have one, too. Create a compliance plan. Review and update it regularly. Don't wait until a problem arises. Most importantly, be sure that you share it, along with highlights of any major changes or warnings, to the entire staff. Be sure that your staff is given – and understands – a way to report suspected issues without fear of retribution.



Consistency is key. State the objectives of the compliance plan clearly and directly. Be sure that staff understands how to report suspected compliance breaches. Respond promptly and definitively to any reports or reported offenses. Take corrective action and follow up to be sure that the correction worked. If it didn't, change your protocols, policies or workflow.



And, be sure to maintain control of information flowing to and from your practice by supervising all email addresses. No employee should be using a personal email address at any time.

## 2021 Practice Meeting Dates Announced

Mark your calendars. Be sure to join us at our quarterly practice meetings. Currently, meetings are planned to take place in person though we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and apprise you of any changes as soon as possible.

Silver State ACO (“SSACO”) practice meetings give you the opportunity to learn about requirements set forth by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid), updates to COVID-19 protocols, and ways that Silver State ACO can help you. It gives you an opportunity to talk with your quality coordinator and to meet the rest of the SSACO team as well as staff from other Participant practices. One of the great benefits of being part of Silver State ACO is the ability for us to learn from each other, pick up hints for workflow ideas that have been tested at similar practices, and ask questions or be advised of answers to a question that someone else might have asked.

Please join us. Practice meetings for 2021 are currently scheduled for:

Southern Nevada: Two sessions each date: 7:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at Summerlin Hospital

Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Summerlin Hospital

Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at Desert Springs Hospital

Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Summerlin Hospital

Northern Nevada: 5 p.m. at *Sparks Medical Building*

Thursdays, January 7<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>, September 30<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>

*Be sure to check future newsletters for any updates regarding changes due to COVID-19 or any other reasons.*

### Additional Resources

**Comprehensive information about Medicare billing in connection with COVID-19:**

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/03092020-covid-19-faqs-508.pdf>

**CMS:**

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf> .

Additional information about COVID-19 and reopening can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html> and at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>.

### Next Practice Meetings:

*Southern Nevada:*

*Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020*

*Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021*

*Northern Nevada:*

*Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020*

*Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021*

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, Ashlee, Dineen,  
Heather, Jennifer, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Larry, Leeann,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Savannah, Sharon,  
Tina, Tommy



Next Practice Meetings:

*Southern Nevada:*

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021

*Northern Nevada:*

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021

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, Ashlee, Dineen, Heather, Jennifer, Jessica A., Jessica S., Larry, Leeann, Linda, Martha, Rena, Rhonda, Savannah, Sharon, Tina, Tommy



**State of Nevada Response:**

<https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/6.22-Guidance-on-Improvised-Facial-Coverings-JH-V1.pdf>

**Covered influenza, clinical diagnostic lab tests in connection with COVID-19:**

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-ifc-2-flu-rsv-codes.pdf>

To cancel receiving the monthly Silver State ACO Newsletter please click Unsubscribe and type "Unsubscribe" in the subject box

Quote of the Month

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have you will never, ever have enough."

Oprah Winfrey (1954 - )

