



In This Issue

- There's Still Time
- \$3,000 – Could You Use Some?
- Advancing Care Information
- New Medicare Cards
- Tips from the National Institute on Aging
- Holiday Mixers
- Office Staff Meetings – Success and Fun
- Compliance Reminder

Visit our Website

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

Contact Us:

(702) 608-0417
(775) 241-3613

SilverStateACO@
SilverStateACO.com

**Ashley, Estela, Iran,
Jessica, Larry, Rena,
Rhonda, Sara, Tommy**

There's Still Time....

Silver State ACO ("SSACO") clinical specialists have visited every practice and delivered a "gaps in care" report for those patients whose charts have been reviewed. Our clinical specialists are hard at work identifying ways for your practice to improve quality scores, thereby improving the chances for SSACO to earn shared savings for 2017, and increasing your practice's share in the savings, if earned. There is still time to close care gaps. Doing so by year-end is critical for quality measures scoring and helps with patient care. Every little improvement helps! Please reach out to your clinical specialists if you need clarification or ideas on how best to accomplish this.

Would \$3,000 Make a Difference to You After the Holidays?

As announced at our October Office Staff meeting and in the November newsletter, SSACO has offered a \$1,000 incentive payment for closing care gaps in each of three quality measures categories. The participating practice that completes the greatest number of diabetic eye exams, depression screenings or fall risk assessments between now and December 31st will win. A group may win for one, two or all three of the measures. (Here's the fine print – Although we want good care for all patients, only SSACO attributed patients count toward winning. All paperwork must be scanned into the chart no later than Dec. 31st. Submit your list, as an Excel spreadsheet, to your clinical specialist by January 5, 2018.) Winners will be announced at the January 31, 2018 Office Staff meeting.

Advancing Care Information ("ACI") – Need Help?

Please remember that Advancing Care Information ("ACI", previously known as Meaningful Use) affects your payment rate by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") and is double weighted for quality measures scoring for the ACO which, in turns, affects how much the ACO will receive from CMS should we earn savings. For 2017, CMS will allow for reporting a partial year so please do the attestation as soon as you can. Good for you. Good for SSACO.

As per CMS rules, the ACO cannot file ACI on your behalf. However, there is help available if you need it. You might reach out to HealthInsight.

HealthInsight is a private non-profit community based organization dedicated to improving healthcare systems. They are the Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) serving Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah. Along with 13 other regional QIN-QIOs, HealthInsight is leading health care quality improvement initiatives for the Medicare Program for a five-year period (2014–2019) as guided by CMS.

Hold the Date:

First 2018 Office Staff Meeting

**Wednesday,
January 31st, 2018 –
Summerlin Hospital –
7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.**

- *Meet other participants and SSACO staff*
- *Learn about the benefits you already have as a Participant in SSACO*
- *Hear about New Participants, Goals and Benefits in 2018*
- **WIN PRIZES**

Visit our Website

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

Contact Us:

**(702) 608-0417
(775) 241-3613**

**SilverStateACO@
SilverStateACO.com**

**Ashley, Estela, Iran,
Jessica, Larry, Rena,
Rhonda, Sara, Tommy**



HealthInsight is working with Nevada providers and communities to promote patient-centered care, make care safer and more affordable, and improve population health. Under a number of prevention aims, they are engaging medical practices, hospitals, surgery centers, home health agencies, Medicare consumers and families, public agencies, and other key stakeholders to develop and apply proven strategies for • Cardiovascular Health • Reducing Disparities in Diabetes Care • Quality Payment Program and Merit-based Incentive Payment System • Improving Immunization Rates (Influenza and Pneumonia) • Depression and Alcohol Misuse Screening • 30-Day Hospital Readmissions, and • Antibiotic Stewardship.

For more information about HealthInsight and how they might be able to help you with Advancing Care Information, contact Aaron Hubbard at AHubbard@healthinsight.org or at 702.948.0306.

New Medicare Cards Are Coming

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015, requires CMS to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. A new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on the new Medicare cards. It will be used for Medicare transactions like billing, eligibility status, and claim status.

CMS currently uses an SSN-based HICN to identify people with Medicare and administer the program. They use the HICN with The Social Security Administration (SSA), The United States Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), State Medicaid Agencies, Health care providers and Health plans.

Under the new system, for each person enrolled in Medicare, CMS will:

- Assign a new MBI.
- Mail a new Medicare card.

The main reason that CMS is creating new Medicare cards is to fight medical identity theft for people with Medicare. So, keep in mind that the MBI is confidential like the SSN and should be protected as Personally Identifiable Information.

CMS has announced that they will begin to mail cards in April, 2018. They have not clarified in what order they will be mailed. Watch future editions of this newsletter for additional information as we receive it.

This program was previously referred to as the Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI). For more details: [New Medicare Project website](#)

Good Tips from the National Institute on Aging – But that Are useful for Everyone!

Did you know that your pharmacist can work with you to help you take medications safely and reliably? Here are a few things to check when you fill a prescription, especially for a new medication:

- Make sure the label has your name on it and the directions from your doctor. If it doesn't have directions, talk with the pharmacist before taking the medicine.
- If the medicine is something you've taken before, see if it looks the same. If the medicine looks different from what you were expecting, ask the pharmacist to double check that it is correct.

Visit our Website

www.silverstateaco.com

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

Contact Us:

(702) 608-0417

(775) 241-3613

**SilverStateACO@
SilverStateACO.com**

**Ashley, Estela, Iran,
Jessica, Larry, Rena,
Rhonda, Sara, Tommy**



- If you have trouble swallowing pills, ask if a liquid medicine is available. Do not chew, break, or crush pills until you find out whether the drug will still work.
- Make sure you can read and understand the medicine's name, directions, and any warning stickers on the bottle. If the label is hard to read, ask the pharmacist to use a larger type.
- Make sure you can open the container. If not, and you don't have children in the house, ask for medicine bottles that are easier to open.
- Ask if the medicine needs to be stored in a particular way, such as in a refrigerator or a dry area.
- Give your doctor and pharmacist an up-to-date list of any allergies and other medications you're taking so they won't give you a medicine that contains something you're allergic to. You can check the label, too, to make sure you're not allergic to any of the ingredients.

If you have any questions about a medication you are taking or any of the written information that comes with your prescription, talk with the pharmacist or your doctor. Making sure you understand your medications is an important step in taking care of your health. [Read more](#) about taking medications safely on the NIH website.

Nevada Health Care Forum Holiday Mixer, Benefitting the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation

Silver State ACO is proud to be affiliated with the Nevada Health Care Forum and the wonderful work they do. The Nevada Health Care Forum will hold their holiday mixer in Las Vegas on Thursday, December 7th from 5:30 to 9:00 pm at The Enclave Event Center (5810 S. Eastern Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89119). The holiday mixer for Northern Nevada will be on Wednesday, December 13th from 5:30 to 9:00 pm at Craft Wine and Beer (22 Martin Street, Reno, NV 89509). Admission for members of ACHE, HFMA, HIMSS or MGMA Nevada is \$10 (\$20 for non-members). Two drinks are included. Please bring an unwrapped toy. Representatives from the Nevada Health Care Forum will deliver the toys to the kids at a special celebration, and in time for the holidays. A flyer with registration information is attached.



Linn Billingsley, Co-Chair of SSACO Board of Directors, Larry Preston CEO of SSACO, and Kelly LeGrow of Brown & Brown at Nevada HealthCare Forum Annual meeting in October

Visit our Website

www.silverstateaco.com

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

Contact Us:

(702) 608-0417

(775) 241-3613

**SilverStateACO@
SilverStateACO.com**

**Ashley, Estela, Iran,
Jessica, Larry, Rena,
Rhonda, Sara, Tommy**



Vick Gill (UMC) , Larry Preston (CEO of SSACO) and Mason Vanhouweling (UMC) at the Nevada HealthCare Forum annual meeting

Office Staff Meeting

Be sure to join us at Summerlin Hospital on Wednesday, January 31st for our first 2018 Office Staff meeting. We will welcome new groups who have joined SSACO effective January 1, 2018. (CMS has not announced final approvals, so we can't yet announce them). SSACO staff will review changes to CMS rules, clinical requirements, etc. We will also announce the winners of our three \$1,000 incentive payments to the group who completes the greatest number of 1) diabetic eye exams, 2) depression screenings and 3) fall risk assessments.

And here's another chance to win: Respond to the email to which this newsletter was attached, with the words "I'll be there to start 2018 right" in the subject line. You'll be entered to win a prize. Winners will be announced at the January Office Staff meeting.

COMPLIANCE REMINDER

With all the involvement and distraction of the holiday season, it could be easy to become careless. Please remember to ALWAYS protect PHI. And, should you see or hear anything that could be considered potential fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement of CMS information or resources, report it immediately to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) hotline. Call 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477) or visit their website: <https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/>.

HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAYS

From All of Us at Silver State ACO



Visit our Website

www.silverstateaco.com

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

Contact Us:

(702) 608-0417

(775) 241-3613

SilverStateACO@
SilverStateACO.com

Ashley, Estela, Iran,
Jessica, Larry, Rena,
Rhonda, Sara, Tommy



Thought for the Day:

"I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending." Fred Rogers, an American television personality, musician, puppeteer, writer and producer of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood which ran from 1968 to 2001. He was a Presbyterian minister and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a Peabody Award and numerous honorary degrees for his dedication to youth and education, as well as his advocacy of various public causes.



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