



Powered by The Valley Health System and Kindred Hospitals



October 2024

# Newsletter

Volume 112

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## Health Information Exchange Grant

In our *August Newsletter*, we discussed the components required to meet *Promoting Interoperability* (PI) under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). One of the objectives under this program is the Health Information Exchange. There are currently three options a practice can choose from and only one option from the three needs to be met:

**Option 1:** Support Electronic Referral Loops by Sending Health Information & Support Electronic Referral Loops by Receiving and Reconciling Health Information

**Option 2:** HIE Bi-directional Exchange

**Option 3:** Enabling Exchange under TEFCA

The most known and cost-effective option being the first one, Electronic Referral Loops by Sending Health Information & Electronic Referral Loops by Receiving and Reconciling Health Information. However, this option is also the most difficult to meet due to complicated vendor workflows, staffing limitations and the dependence on other practices to provide direct messaging addresses. When the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) added option 2, HIE Bi-directional Exchange it was a relief but due to monetary constraints and EMR vendor accessibility it also proved to be difficult.

Fast forward to today, when the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) has been asked to manage \$3 Million through Assembly Bill 7 (AB 7, 2023) for the purpose of awarding grants to smaller



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healthcare providers and medical facilities to become bi-directional with the state HIE, HealthIE Nevada.

This is an amazing, limited time opportunity for smaller organizations (under 50 staff members) to take advantage of. This grant not only assists with meeting option 2 of PI but can make retrieving medical record documentation from other providers involved in patient care easier. In order to produce a simple and stress-free process, HealthIE Nevada will support your providers/facility throughout the entire application and agreement operation.

Please review the attached flyer for further information and reach out to your Quality Coordinator if you have any additional questions.

### **Security, Security, Security**

Security and privacy are no longer just legal or compliance issues. They are imperative to patient trust and to safeguarding and maintaining the integrity of data. Effectively managing access to the data is step one.

We can't stress this enough. Recent high profile data breaches and ransomware attacks highlight the need to constantly be on alert. It goes without saying that firewalls and anti-virus programs should always be updated, and full system backups should be completed often and automatically.



Unfortunately, that's not enough. Attacks have become more sophisticated and difficult to detect. The threat is real. The National Public Radio wrote *an article* about how cyberattacks are increasing in healthcare. There were 249 ransomware attacks that targeted healthcare institutions.

Experts point to users, your staff, as the best and last line of defense. As the saying goes, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Staff must be constantly educated and reminded of the importance of securing all data and computer terminals. Please respond to the email to which this newsletter was attached with "Security is Important" in the subject line to be entered into the drawing for a gift card.

Simply posting a reminder is not sufficient. Change the posters to draw attention to the message. We are all overloaded with

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messaging so tend to ignore any that we have already read or seen.

## Grand Reopening of CARE Chest in Reno

CARE Chest is a Nevada non-profit that provides free medical equipment & supplies, incontinence protection, medical nutrition, prescription assistance, diabetic testing supplies, independent living services and CARE Loans (personal loans through CARE Chest to modify homes and vehicles) to Nevadans. CARE Chest serves over 21,000 people per year Monday – Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm with two main locations:

CARE Chest Headquarters - Reno  
7910 N. Virginia St.  
Reno, NV 89506  
Phone - (775) 829-2273

CARE Chest - Las Vegas  
3074 - 3080 W. Post Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89118  
Toll Free Phone - (866) 206-5242

Silver State ACO is a proud supporter of CARE Chest. On Thursday, August 29, 2024, CARE Chest opened a new drive-thru and warehouse at their Reno, NV location allowing more clients to be served.



Photo above: Ribbon cutting of the new facilities with the CARE Chest Board and guests.

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Photo left: Inside the new 5,000 sq ft warehouse during the grand opening ceremony.

Photo below: New Drive thru at the CARE Chest in Reno.



Photo above: Silver State ACO and CARE Chest employees celebrating a wonderful collaboration.

From Left to Right: Christina Hernandez, Krista Huey, Larry Preston, Rhonda Hamilton, Troy Rigney, Jessica Shepard, Eliya Hansen, Rena Kantor, Gabby Pohlman, Anabella Rivera, Vickilyn Calhoun, and Eddie Garcia.

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## Northern Nevada Women’s Leadership Breakfast

On Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Atlantis Casino, Silver State ACO supported the Northern Nevada Women’s Leadership Breakfast. There were over 200 attendees learning about the Perfectly Imperfect Leadership. Moderator was Kitty McKay and panelist were Sarah Mahmoud, Michelle Miller, Dr. Rima Rindler, and Emma White.



Pictured above from left to right: Emma White, Dr. Rima Rindler, Michelle Miller and Sarah Mahmoud.

Picture below: Attendees of the Northern Nevada Women’s Leadership Breakfast.



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Pictured above from left to right: Emma White, Michelle Miller, and Kitty McKay.

### **Practice Meeting – LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR**

The last Practice Meetings for 2024 will be held on November 6th in Southern Nevada and November 7th in Northern Nevada, respectively. Please be sure to attend. The meetings are a great opportunity to learn how to improve scores, meet CMS requirements, and become acquainted with other Participants. We can all learn from one another. See more details below.

#### **SOUTHERN NEVADA**

*Wednesday, November 6, 2024*

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

#### **NORTHERN NEVADA**

*Thursday, November 7, 2024*

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.