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www.silverstateaco.com

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

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SILVER STATE ACO - Bigger and Better in 2016

Silver State ACO has added numerous practices and specialties for 2016. CMS will not yet allow us to announce which the new groups are (although they have not forbidden the groups from announcing that they have joined an ACO. Go figure?) We can, however, tell you that SSACO is now made up of 38 separate TINs (tax identification numbers, unique to each practice) representing well over 250 physicians. Within the next week we should also be receiving data from CMS as to how many Medicare beneficiaries we represent. In January, we hope to announce the new groups and the wonderful benefits and services many of them offer. We are, in any case, allowed to welcome the new groups. So, welcome!!

Reminder and Clarification on Meaningful Use

Don't forget that the 2015 Program Year Attestation begins January 4th. CMS has updated the EHR Incentive Programs Attestation Batch Upload page with the specifications for 2015 program year attestation. Attestations will be accepted for all Medicare eligible professionals, hospitals and CAHs from January 4 through February 29, 2016. Please note that although Silver State ACO will file GPRO (PQRS at the ACO level), each practice must still attest to meaningful use on its' own.

What's New for 2016?

In its' final rules, CMS changed the requirements for notifying your patients that you have joined an ACO and that their data will be shared. The new rules make it much easier for ACO member practices. You need only post a notification in your office. It has now become the patient's responsibility to contact CMS should they not want to allow their data to be shared, or if they have questions. For those of you who were participants last year, that means no more addresses, no more letters! For the new practices – trust us – this is a very good thing!

You should have received framed notifications for your office. If you have multiple locations, each location must have a notification posted. The notification verbiage is specifically set by CMS, and is

new for 2016. If you have not received your new notification please let us know immediately. We will be delivering new, “personalized” ones to each of the practices throughout the month of January. In addition, CMS has created a Beneficiary Information Notice, in both English and Spanish, which you should have received. Again, these contain very specific language which may not be changed. These two-page hand-outs are for those who request additional information or clarification. You are NOT required to give one to each Medicare patient. The Notice, as well as the posted Notification, directs the patient to call 1-800-Medicare if he/she has further questions. (YOU, on the other hand, can always call us!) Please remember – and let your patients know – that it is the practice that is the member; they do not / cannot “join”. In fact, CMS refers to them as “beneficiaries” because they, simply, benefit.

News on AMA Wire Alert

Earlier in the month, we forwarded an alert from the AMA about filing an informal review request with CMS so as to be sure that no PQRS penalties or negative value-based payment modifier adjustments be imposed for 2016. We have clarified with CMS that this is NOT necessary. CMS has assured us that these will *not* be imposed on any practice that, during 2014, was a member of an ACO which filed GPRO on time (which we did!) For those of you who joined us at the beginning of 2015 or who are now joining us, effective January 1st, 2016 – we can’t help you with 2016 Medicare payments, but we can assure you that we will help you – in all ways possible – for 2017.

Save the Date: Practice Managers Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016 –

At Summerlin Hospital. 11:30am – 1 pm. Lunch will be served

Please join us, meet practice managers from other SSACO participants, have lunch, learn something. We’d love to see you. Kindly rsvp so that we know to expect you for lunch!

Happy and Healthy New Year to all of you - from all of us at Silver State ACO

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors,
and let every new year find you a better man. [Benjamin Franklin](#)