



Powered by The Valley Health System and Kindred Hospitals



June 2024

# Newsletter

Volume 108

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## SILVER STATE ACO CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

On Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Participant Providers, Preferred Providers, Silver State Shareholders, Management, and Board of Directors celebrated ten years of Silver State ACO's success. Having earned Shared Savings for eight consecutive years and saving the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) over \$232.5 million, Silver State ACO maintains its position as one of the most effective and successful Accountable Care Organizations in the history of the CMS Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP).

Hosted in Reno at the National Automobile Museum, attendees were treated to dinner, music, and the ability to walk around and look at over 250 cars. Cars ranged from cars made of all copper to F1 cars from the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

It was a successful evening of networking and celebration. Thank you to all who came to celebrate with us!

Here are some photos of the event.

Pictured: Karla Perez and Larry Preston welcoming everyone to the event.



### #VegasStrong

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**NOTE:**

Next Practice Meeting:  
Southern Nevada  
Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Northern Nevada:  
Thursday, August 1, 2024

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Dineen, Jacquie, Jessica A.,  
Jessica S., Jessica W., Larry,  
Linda, Martha, Rena,  
Rhonda, Richelle, Savannah



Pictured: Left to Right – Jessica Hensler, Chris Loftus, and Kim Forbes-Daniel



**Quality Spotlight: Diabetes**

Diabetes is a chronic condition that affects millions of people nationwide. According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), 11.6% of Americans had diabetes in 2023, and over 1.2 million are diagnosed each year, with many more going undiagnosed. It has been estimated that 1 out of 2 adults are unaware of their condition. With numbers on the rise, it is essential to understand this disease, how it impacts patients, and what can be done to manage it.

Early detection is crucial to managing diabetes and preventing complications. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) covers



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two diabetes screenings within a 12-month period. Patients with certain risk factors or who have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes qualify.

There are three primary types of diabetes:

- Type 1: An autoimmune disorder where the pancreas makes little or no insulin. This is typically diagnosed in childhood but can develop at any age.
- Type 2: The most common form where the body has trouble controlling blood sugar and using it for energy. It is often linked to lifestyle factors such as poor diet, physical inactivity, and obesity.
- Gestational Diabetes: This type occurs during pregnancy and usually resolves after childbirth.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes diabetes can lead to severe health conditions such as heart disease, kidney failure, nerve damage, blindness, amputations, and more. Not only does diabetes impact health, but it also has a significant economic impact. The ADA estimates that in 2017, the national cost of diabetes was \$327 billion, with approximately 61% of expenditures being used by patients aged 65 and older.

Attempting to control diabetes involves encouraging patients to make lifestyle changes, regularly monitoring blood sugar levels, and compliance with medication and treatment. It is recommended to suggest programs focused on weight management, physical activity, and balanced diets.



Regular checkups should be scheduled to monitor blood sugar levels and screen for further complications.

Understanding the magnitude of diabetes in the Medicare population, CMS requires the ACO to report on the measure Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control. This ensures a focus on continuing to improve and maintain the health of each diabetic patient.

For this measure, CMS requires patients with an active diagnosis of diabetes during the current year (2024) or the year prior (2023) AND who are between the ages of ages 18-75 to have an HbA1c completed during 2024. The goal is to maintain a "controlled" HbA1c. Please note that CMS considers HbA1c to be "controlled" if it is 8.9% or lower.

By prioritizing preventive care, Silver State ACO participating practices can boost their quality performance, leading to better health outcomes and overall higher patient satisfaction.



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Please reach out to your Coordinator if you have any questions or need any assistance understanding the Diabetes quality measure.

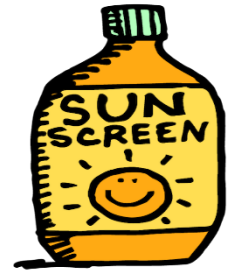
**Security, Security, Security**

It's the beginning of summer; it's time to pull out all the sunscreen to protect your skin. Just like our skin needs protection, so does your data.

Wearing sunscreen daily turns into a habit, as does incorporating security into your everyday processes.

Remembering to *always* protect PHI (Protected Health Information) and PII (Personal Identifiable Information) will help us protect our practices and build trust with our patients.

- *Always* encrypt patient data
- *Always* lower voice when discussing patients
- *Always* shred documents
- *Always* err on the side of "Better safe than sorry"
- *Always* log out of a computer when done
- *Always* educate and reinforce good behavior, and
- *Never* share passwords



**PRACTICE MEETINGS**

During the May Practice Meetings, practices with high quality scores were recognized for their achievement. 16 practices scored 100% in their Web Interface measures. Keep up the great work.

**Southern Nevada**

Betty Yao, MD, David Kim, MD, Diagnostic Center of Medicine, Frontline Medical Group, Decatur Family Practice, Sagebrush Medical Center, Samerra Sbaih, MD, Thomas Chen, MD, Touro University, and Premium Family Practice.



Pictured Betty Yao, MD Practice



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<- Pictured David  
Kim, MD Practice

Pictured  
Diagnostic Center of  
Medicine ->



Pictured Frontline  
Medical Group ->



<- Pictured  
Dectaur Family  
Practice

Pictured  
Sagebrush  
Medical Center  
->







Pictured above Premium Family Practice

### Northern Nevada

Alpine Family Medicine, B Bottenberg, DO, Diane Thomas, MD,  
Sierra Nevada Family Medicine, Sunset Clinics, Vista Family  
Medicine



Pictured above B Bottenberg Practice



<- Pictured  
Diane  
Thomas, MD  
Practice

Picture Sierra  
Nevada  
Wellness  
Center - >



The third round of Practice Meetings for 2024 will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> in Southern Nevada and August 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. And, to be entered to win a prize at one of the meetings, please respond to the email to which this newsletter was attached with "Summer fun with SSACO" in the subject line.

### **SOUTHERN NEVADA**

*Wednesday, July 31, 2024*

*Wednesday, November 6, 2024*

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

### **NORTHERN NEVADA**

*Thursday, August 1, 2024*

*Thursday, November 7, 2024*

Northern Nevada Practice Meetings are generally held at Northern Nevada Sparks Medical Building, Suite 201. Meet & Greet begins at 5 pm; Meeting begins at 5:30.

### **More Pictures from the National Automobile Museum Celebration**









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