



## In this Issue:

- Quality Measures Reporting Completed
- Public Reporting
- MIPS checklist
- Social Determinants of Health
- CDC Request for Measles Outbreak Support
- NV MGMA Conference

## Upcoming Practice Meetings:

Southern Nevada:  
Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at  
Summerlin Hospital

Northern Nevada: Thursday,  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> at NNMC Sparks  
Medical Building

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## 2018 CMS Quality Reporting Complete



Silver State ACO (SSACO) Quality Coordinators have completed their task. All 2018 quality measures that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires

the ACO to report have now been successfully filed. This completes three of the four categories of MIPS for our Participants. DONE. Just by being a Participant Member of SSACO.

THANK YOU to the Quality Coordinators and the practice staff who worked so hard to get this done!

Final results from CMS including whether SSACO has been successful in earning shared savings are not usually released until the end of summer.

## Public Reporting

CMS requires all ACOs to publish particular data on their website. SSACO has just completed this requirement which prompted us to remind you to check out the SSACO website: [www.silverstateaco.com](http://www.silverstateaco.com).

There is a lot of convenient information, including locations and contact information for our Participants and Preferred Providers. You'll also find some educational resources. And, of course, if you absolutely need to find a copy of an old newsletter – they're all on the website, as well.

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# Quality Payment PROGRAM

QPP



## 2019 Merit-Based Incentive Payment System [MIPS] Checklist

**Understand the program.**

You are participating in a MIPS APM ACO. Review <https://qpp.cms.gov> to understand what the reporting requirements are. Call your Quality Coordinator with any questions or if you need assistance.

**Know which categories your practice is required to attest to.**

There are 4 categories within MIPS:

1. **Quality** – Reported by Silver State ACO for Participant Practices
2. **Improvement Activities** – Reported by Silver State ACO for Participant Practices
3. **Cost** – N/A for Silver State ACO Participant Practices
4. **Promoting Interoperability** - If you are a Silver State ACO Participant Practice this is the only category that you are required to report directly to QPP!

**Upgrade your CEHRT to a 2015 Edition.**

CMS requires all practices to be on a 2015 Certified Electronic Health Record for the 2019 performance year. If you are unaware of which edition you have, you can search your EMR version at <https://chpl.healthit.gov/#/search> or call your EMR vendor. Make sure you upgrade your EMR version early in the year.

**Keep your HARP account active.**

Set up your HARP Account through the <http://qpp.cms.gov> website as soon as possible. Afterwards, you should get into the habit of logging in at least once every month to keep it active.

**Make sure your practice is collecting data for Promoting Interoperability ASAP!**

CMS allows practices to submit for a 90 day window. Begin now in order to be certain data is being accurately captured by your EMR. Run reports often! October 1<sup>st</sup> is the last day to begin capturing this data; however do not wait until then. If there is a problem it will be too late to fix it.

**Review your Promoting Interoperability provider performance data.**

Ask yourself, are the numerator counts (the number of people who had a specific treatment) and the denominator counts (the number of people eligible for the treatment) correct? If something does not look right, contact your EMR Help Desk as soon as possible to review the data.

**Review previous year's Promoting Interoperability data.**

If you submitted for MIPS in 2017 or 2018, review your data and develop a plan to tackle those PI measures in which you did not succeed.

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## Social Determinants of Health (“SoDH”)

More and more, there’s growing recognition that non-medical factors can have a major impact on a patient’s health. This understanding is leading the way to a more holistic approach to care. Practices, care coordinators, and insurers now study environmental factors – Does the patient have access to convenient transportation in order to reach the doctor? Can the patient get his/her prescriptions? Does the patient have the means to acquire sufficient, healthy food? Does the patient live in a safe environment, able to enter and leave their home without undue hardship (such as flights of stairs)? Have fall risks been eliminated from the patient’s home? It seems obvious that each of these factors can affect whether a patient stays well and how successful the outcomes are – especially after a hospital stay.

ACOs are also paying close attention to these social determinants, and creating programs to address them, because good outcomes also help reduce costs.

It’s important for our practices to know about resources available to help address these issues. One excellent resource is Nevada211, a not-for-profit resource funded by the state. Their mission is “to connect all individuals, families, and providers to essential health and human services information and resources”. Exactly what you might need – and it’s FREE.



Here’s how Nevada 2-1-1 describes it’s services, procedures and experience:

*Nevada 2-1-1 is a free, easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. While 2-1-1 exists nationwide, Nevada’s Department of Health & Human Services selected Money Management International to administer Nevada’s 2-1-1 local program. Money Management International and Nevada 2-1-1 are committed to helping Nevadans achieve optimal self-sufficiency, health, and well-being all across the state. Call Specialists take more than 10,000 calls per month and are trained to assist callers in navigating the sometimes confusing maze of finding the right agency for the desired services. This free, confidential service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year.*

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To give you an idea of the kinds of agencies involved in Nevada 2-1-1 and your place in it, our database includes agencies that offer the following services:

- **Basic Human Needs Resources:** Food banks, clothing, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources:** Medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention, rehabilitation, health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare
- **Employment Support:** Unemployment benefits, financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs
- **Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities:** Home health care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, transportation
- **Support for Children, Youth and Families:** Quality childcare, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services

Should you identify a patient with a social need – housing, food, mental health issues, please call 2-1-1 (from anywhere within Nevada) or 1-866-535-5654 (if calling from outside the state). Or log on at [www.nevada211.org](http://www.nevada211.org). There's even a special section for "seniors".

### CDC Request for Measles Outbreak Support

From January 1 – February 21, 2019, 159 people from 10 states (CA, CO, CT, GA, IL, KY, NY, OR, TX, and WA) were reported as having measles. In fact, at the end of March, health offices in Rockland County, just north of New York City, declared a state of emergency after having more than 150 confirmed cases of measles. The county is prohibiting unvaccinated children from going out in public spaces for 30 days.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is asking for your help to ensure that all patients are up-to-date on measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines. Healthcare professionals are urged to visit the following website for additional information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>.



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**SSACO will be at the Nevada MGMA State Conference!**

The Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) is holding their Nevada Annual State Conference in Reno on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The all-day event will be held at the Reno Ballroom located at 401 N. Center Street.

The theme for this year's event is *Essentials of Practice Management*. You do NOT have to be a member of MGMA to attend!

Come see us and enter to win raffle prizes, the first person to come to our booth and mention that you read this newsletter will win a \$25 Starbucks giftcard. We hope to see you there!

Register for the conference here: <https://mgmanv.org/event-3128352>



**Next practice meetings:**

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