



Powered by The Valley Health System and Kindred Hospitals



December 2024

Newsletter

Volume 114

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#VegasStrong

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(775) 391-6484
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(702) 751-0834

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SilverStateACO.com

Incredible SUCCESS! Nine Consecutive Years!

CMS recently announced results of the 2023 Performance Year. Silver State ACO is delighted and proud to announce that Silver State ACO *earned Shared Savings for an astounding NINTH consecutive year!*

In the history of the Medicare Shared Savings Program there are only twelve ACOs that have accomplished this amazing success!



Final reconciliation shows that, for the 2023 performance year, Silver State ACO saved CMS over \$29,167,000. Cumulatively over the last nine years, SSACO has saved CMS more than \$261,758,000! Of the savings generated for CMS in 2023, Silver State ACO has earned more than \$21,437,000.

Of the 453 ACOs that participated in the program in 2023, Silver State ACO ranked in the top 8% of ACOs for Shared Savings Earned. Keep in mind that this disregards the number of beneficiaries served by the ACOs, of which there are many ACOs that are much larger than Silver State ACO.

Silver State ACO was the **#1 ACO** in Nevada for both generated savings and shared savings!

NOTE:

Next Practice Meeting:
Southern Nevada
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025

Northern Nevada:
Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025

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In 2023, Silver State ACO was comprised of fifty-three practices serving over 33,000 beneficiaries in Southern and Northern Nevada. Our continued success proves that implementing effective and efficient processes, programs and policies can make a difference. The results speak for themselves.

Earning Shared Savings is a result of hard work, cooperation, and innovation. We are grateful for all those involved in the care of patients as well as those providing support and guidance in assisting the practices; negotiating CMS rules, improving quality scores, and increasing revenue while providing excellent care to patients which is, ultimately, our most important goal.

2025 Medicare CQMs

As we approach the beginning of the 2025 performance year, we would like to inform you of key quality reporting changes that will impact our practices.

Starting in 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be

sunsetting the CMS Web Interface Measures. This means that Silver State ACO will no longer be able to report those measures on behalf of our participating practices. Instead, we will be required to report quality via Medicare Clinical Quality Measures (CQMs).

Medicare CQMs are electronic-based measures populated and pulled directly from your Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. These will be uploaded via a QRDA Category 1 file. Over the past few years, your Quality Coordinators have been working closely with you to ensure that you, your providers, and your staff are familiar with the specifications for these measures and understand how to document them correctly within your EHR.

However, with the release of the 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, CMS has added one new CQM to



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the requirements—**Breast Cancer Screenings**. This brings the total number of required CQMs for 2025 to the following:

- **Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control:** For patients aged 18–75 with diabetes, an HbA1c must be completed in 2025. Medicare considers an HbA1c “controlled” if it is less than or equal to 9.0%. The last HbA1c completed in 2025 is the reading Medicare requires the ACO to report.
- **Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan:** All patients aged 12 and older must be screened for depression using an age-appropriate standardized depression screening tool. If the screening is positive, a follow-up plan must be documented within the patient chart either on the date of the screening or within two days. The follow-up plan must include one or more of the following:
 - Referral to a provider for additional evaluation and assessment
 - Pharmacological interventions
 - Other interventions or follow-up for the diagnosis or treatment of depression
- **Controlling High Blood Pressure:** This measure applies to patients aged 18–85 with a diagnosis of hypertension and whose blood pressure was adequately controlled. Medicare defines “adequately controlled” as less than or equal to 139/89 mmHg. The last blood pressure reading documented in 2025 is the reading Medicare requires the ACO to report.
- **Breast Cancer Screening:** While CMS has not yet released full specifications for this measure, it is expected to follow similar guidelines to the previous CMS Web Interface Measure. Women should be

screened for breast cancer at least once every 24 months, with a 3-month grace period.

Each EHR system has its own way of documenting these measures in designated fields to ensure they meet the intent of the measure. We strongly recommend that practices contact their EHR company liaison to fully understand the necessary workflows, particularly for the newly added breast cancer screening measure.

If you have any questions or need further assistance with these measures, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Quality Coordinators.

Tis the Season... to Reinforce Security



Silver State ACO reminds all practices that, although we may be busy planning holiday festivities and time off, the “bad guys” do not celebrate holidays by slowing down. Quite the contrary, they understand that many staff members are distracted during the holiday season and try to take advantage of that.

We strongly recommend that NOW is the time to review all access and require that staff reset passwords for all systems, programs or websites which contain patient information. An ounce of prevention far outweighs a pound of cure. Let’s start 2025 without the headache of compromised data. TAKE ACTION NOW!

Visit the [CMS Information Security and Privacy Overview webpage](#) for additional information.

Have you read this carefully? If so, to be entered to win a prize at the next practice meeting, you may respond to the newsletter email with “Tis the Season” in the subject line.

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Quarterly Practice Meetings

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Our 2024 Quarterly Practice Meetings concluded in November, with many practices attending to learn from our preferred providers and learn about updates from CMS. We were pleased to announce and celebrate our Quality Results and Shared Savings—once again achieving Shared Savings!

As a reminder, please ensure that your PECOS data is up to date with CMS. You can confirm your QP status via the QPP Portal. Additionally, in relation to Fraud, Waste, and Abuse, we encourage you to discuss any suspicious billing with your patients.

Should you have any questions regarding this quarter's practice meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Quality Coordinators.

Southern Nevada Quarterly Practice Meeting was held on November 6 at Summerlin Hospital with guest speaker Dr. Leon Varjabedian from Heart Center of Nevada.

Picture below: Dr. Leon Varjabedian from Heart Center of Nevada.



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Congratulations to our gift card winners pictured below: Antonia Apostalo (Health First Medical Center), Yudira Gonzalez (Premium Family Care), & Ashley Nuss (Mountain View Primary Care).



At the Northern Nevada Quarterly Practice Meeting held at Northern Nevada Medical Center on Thursday, Nov. 7, Dr. Devang Desai from Reno Heart and Vascular Institute spoke about their structural heart program.

Pictured below: Dr. Devang Desai from Reno Heart & Vascular Institute.



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Pictured below: Larry Preston reviewing the map of ACOs who made shared savings.



Congratulations to the winners of the gift cards at the Northern Nevada Quarterly Practice Meeting, pictured below.



Pictured above back row left to right: Jessica Wright (SSACO QC), Teri Kelly (Reno Family Physicians), Amanda Gongaware (Reno Family Physicians), Gwen Moore (Diane M. Thomas) & Richelle Heater (SSACO QC). Front row left to right: Dineen Caseday (SSACO QC) and Savannah Rittenhouse (SSACO QC).

2025 Quarterly Practice Meeting Dates

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SOUTHERN NEVADA

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025
Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Wednesday, July 30, 2025
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025



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

NORTHERN NEVADA

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025
*Thursday, May 1, 2025 (at Carson Tahoe Medical Center)
Thursday, July 31, 2025
Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

Northern Nevada Practice Meetings will be held at Northern Nevada Sparks Medical Building, Suite 201. (Unless otherwise noted)

Meet & Greet begins at 5 pm; Meeting begins at 5:30.

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