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Contact Us:

(702) 608-0417

SilverStateACO@

SilverStateACO.com

REMINDER TO ALL

Please keep your information up to date within the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS).

At the start of each performance year, Silver State ACO certifies its' list of "provider/suppliers", identified by their unique NPIs (National Provider Identifiers). This list notifies CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Systems) which providers are billing within the practices that are Participants in the ACO. CMS, which oversees ACOs, uses this ACO Participant List along with PECOS, to identify various variables used to monitor and oversee the ACO. This includes assignment of beneficiaries, calculation of costs attributed to the ACO, and establishment of historical benchmarks, as well as financial performance results. The lists are also used to identify patients to be included as part of the ACO's annual sample for quality reporting.

Unfortunately, each ACO is currently only given the opportunity to update its Provider/Supplier list once a year. Practices can, and should, update their information within PECOS whenever a provider joins, or leaves, the practice. We implore you to do so, as this data could affect the success of Silver State ACO.

Update on GPRO / PQRS - DONE

Silver State ACO is proud to announce that we have successfully completed and submitted GPRO (Group Practice Reporting Option, which is the PQRS quality reporting equivalent for ACOs) for 2015. We have accomplished an enormous feat. During the first week of January, CMS delivered a list of 3,455 names for the sample audit. (Quality measures must be met for all patients, but these are the ones for whom CMS requests actual reporting). Medical records for each of these 3,455 patients had to be reviewed. The deadline to complete the review and submit the data is March 11th. GPRO was submitted to CMS, using Health Endeavors, *ahead of the deadline*. Scores will be released soon!

CMS Kept Its Word... and So Will We

Last June CMS released its' Final Rules for ACOs for the 2016 Performance Year. At that time CMS said that it agreed with many of the comments from ACOs, asking that it be made it easier to see / get claims data for patients. (After all, the purpose of ACOs is to

allow providers to utilize the claims information to help provide better care while also controlling cost. CMS went to great lengths to secure waivers of rules not allowing sharing of PHI, for example Stark laws, in order to create ACOs.) So, in June, 2015, CMS announced that, beginning 2016, ACOs would be able to access claims information for ALL their Medicare fee-for-service patients, not just those attributed to the ACO. In addition, CMS did away with the requirement to notify each prospective beneficiary individually, again making it easier for ACOs to get the claims data.

On February 28th, CMS released claims data for patients of SSACO's Providers. It took five days to download all the data as CMS did, in fact, release claims for all 49,000+ patients seen by our providers (not just the 19,256 patients "attributed" to SSACO for ultimate responsibility of care and cost).

Now it's our turn to keep our word, i.e., to introduce the Health Endeavors website to the fourteen practices which have joined us this year, as well as to do additional training for our previously joined (2014, 2015) participants. Someone from our office will call to set up an appointment. If you are anxious to see all that Health Endeavors has to offer - call us. We'll put you at the top of the list.

Remember to carefully consider the list of people in your office for whom you will request log-in access. Each practice is different. In some practices the doctor or PA might want to access the information directly – by him/herself. In other practices, doctors might prefer to assign the task of researching claims data on particular patients to their MAs. This is an important consideration as anyone who has log-in access to Health Endeavors will be able to retrieve substantial amounts of PHI, including claims data for the previous three years, chronic conditions, DOB, HICN – on ALL Medicare-fee-for-Service patients seen by any provider (doctor, NP, PA) in the group. Please keep this in mind. Also remember that a separate log-in must be requested for each individual. Log in information should never be shared.

Hold the Date - Be the Squeaky Wheel

We are planning the next practice managers meeting, preliminarily scheduled for early May. What works best for you? Breakfast? Lunch? Particular day of the week? If you let us know, we will certainly take it into consideration. If you don't, we can't.

The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress. [Charles Kettering](#) (American inventor, engineer, businessman, and head of research at General Motors from 1920 to 1947. Kettering was the man who invented, among other things, the electric car starter.)