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Visit our Website

www.silverstateaco.com

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

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COMPLIANCE REMINDER - EASY and FREE

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has the authority to exclude individuals and entities from federally funded health care programs for a number of reasons, including, for example, Medicare or Medicaid fraud, patient abuse or neglect. The OIG maintains a list of all currently excluded individuals and entities, called the List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE). Anyone who hires an individual or entity on the LEIE may be subject to civil monetary penalties.

The compliance officer of Silver State ACO checks all SSACO prospective employees against this list, and, periodically, all employees. Exhibit B of the SSACO Participant Agreement states "Provider shall not employ or contract with....individuals or entities that are excluded from... the OIG List".

Doing this is SO much EASIER than you would think! Access the list at <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/searchresults.aspx>. Input the name of the employee. If the search returns "no results were found", print the page, file it with your other compliance documents, go on to the next employee. If, on the other hand, the name is found on the list you must: a) immediately notify SSACO and b) remove the Excluded Individual from any work related, directly or indirectly, to services furnished under the Agreement, and take other appropriate corrective action as requested by SSACO. (Obviously, first ascertain beyond a doubt that this is the correct person. For example, which John Smith...? The OIG list does have some additional information for verification; DOB or SS#).

It's really that fast and easy, and can save you lots of headaches down the road. Certainly worth every minute (and every cent!).

ICD -10 is coming - Like it or not

CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) recently talked with providers to identify some common misperceptions about the transition to ICD-10. Because of the substantial investment made, delaying the transition would lead to an unnecessary rise in health care costs. So, it looks like the transition date will, in fact, be October 1, 2015. Get ready now. Some good news - You will use a similar process to look up ICD-10 codes that you use with ICD-9. Also, the transition to ICD-10 for diagnosis coding and inpatient procedure coding does not affect the use of CPT for outpatient and office coding. Your practice will continue to use CPT.

Although ICD-10 will offer 68,000 codes, your practice will use a very small subset of the codes. (Your practice doesn't use all 13,000 diagnosis codes available in ICD-9, does it?)

On June 18th CMS is having a call specific to ICD-10 " ICD-10: Preparing for Implementation and New ICD-10-PCS Section X.

Those interested may register for the call:

<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-education/outreach/npc/national-provider-calls-and-events.html>

Look for an SSACO email with more ICD-10 information, later this month.

Part of the team....

Do you like reading these newsletters? Do you find the information helpful? We'd love to hear from you! Please forward email addresses for any staff in your practice who you think might benefit from receiving the newsletters and emails. We'd be happy to include them.

Also, do you know of any physicians or practices who would like to be part of our team? Please let us know about them (and them about us). In order to join Silver State ACO for the year beginning January 1, 2016, we must have all documentation done by the beginning of September.

CMS is streamlining some of the requirements for ACOs and is making it more attractive to be an ACO participant. Now is the time to get started.

We heard you - Practice Managers Meeting - new locations... and one at lunchtime!

PRACTICE MANAGERS MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Please note your calendars. The next practice managers' meetings will be held:

Wednesday, July 22nd at noon – Summerlin Hospital – Lunch will be served

Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 am – Spring Valley Hospital – Breakfast will be served

We have tried to make the times and locations more convenient so that you can join us!! Start thinking about who, from your practice, might benefit from learning about our care management initiatives, use of the Health Endeavors website, staying within our "team" of preferred provider specialists.

Please join us – for one, or both! – of the meetings. Until then, have a pleasant and safe summer!