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Ashley, Carissa, Estela, Iran, Jamie, Jessica G., Jessica S., Larry, Rena, Rhonda, Sara, Tommy

**** REMINDER** Wednesday, June 6th**

Practice Meeting – A Great Way to Learn – and Win!

Please join us on June 6th at Summerlin Hospital for our final practice meeting before the summer. As always, there will be two sessions – one at 7:30 am and one at 11:30. Come have a bite to eat, learn about new programs, and maybe even leave with a great gift basket of goodies! RSVP (to iran@silverstateaco.com) would be greatly appreciated.

A message from Nathan Adelson Hospice, now part of Silver State ACO's Preferred Provider Network



Nathan Adelson Hospice is pleased to be a preferred provider for SSACO. We look forward to helping SSACO provide excellent care and assisting in controlling costs by providing the right care, at the right

time, and in the right setting. NAH is committed to communicating clearly with SSACO to ensure patients and families have a high-quality, coordinated care experience. Talking about End of Life with patients and families may be challenging and NAH has experts who can help in having the conversation. We offer training and education resources to assist providers in transitioning their patients from one level of care to another in order to increase quality of life and reduce costs. We are Southern Nevada's oldest, largest and only non-profit hospice with over 300 dedicated employees and 330 committed volunteers ready to support the needs of our medical provider partners and their patients. For more information, please contact Matt Cox, Director of Referral Relations, at 702-218-1079 or visit our website at www.nah.org.

And a message from SSACO – By definition, Silver State ACO patients are all Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries and, as such, can see any provider they want. That being said, we believe that they look to their Primary Care Provider for guidance on medical issues. So, SSACO believes that it's our PCPs who can

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– Summerlin Hospital –
7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

- Meet other participants and SSACO staff
- Learn
- Win Prizes

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Stay Safe and Enjoy!

help direct patients to the right care at the right level and the right time. SSACO carefully screens many candidates in order to identify the providers who can deliver the best and most efficient care to your patients, while helping control costs, overall. Please keep the SSACO Preferred Provider Network in mind whenever referring patients. We are continually updating the network, adding new categories and providers (and dropping those who have not lived up to our expectations). To be sure that you have the most up-to-date version, please visit the SSACO website – www.SilverStateACO.com, click on the Affiliates tab on the right of the home page, where you will find the entire listing as well as a link to download the pdf.

2018 Name Change for One Category of MIPS

Last year, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced a new program called Merit-Based Incentive Payment System or MIPS. This is a performance based payment system and it streamlines three historical Medicare legacy programs into a single cohesive program. For 2018, CMS will be making a slight change. Advancing Care Information, previously known as Meaningful use, is changing its name once again. It will now be called Promoting Interoperability.

Here are a few things you need to know about the name change:

1. **Promoting Interoperability is not a new performance category;** It is just a new name. This new name better reflects CMS's increased focus on interoperability and improving patient access to health information.
2. **The 2018 requirements for the Promoting Interoperability performance category are exactly the same as what was finalized for the Advancing Care Information performance category;** For an overview of the 2018 Promoting Interoperability performance category and participation requirements, review the fact sheet located at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Resource-Library/2018-Promoting-Interoperability-Fact-Sheet.pdf>. Please note, CMS is in the process of updating the 2018 measure specifications to reflect the Promoting Interoperability name change. However, the specifications are still the same.
3. In addition to renaming the Advancing Care Information performance category, **CMS also changed the name of the EHR Incentive Programs to the Promoting Interoperability Programs.** To learn more about the Promoting Interoperability Programs, visit <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/index.html>

Promoting Interoperability is still a requirement and is double weighted for all practices. Filing of Promoting Interoperability [or lack of] will not only affect the Shared Savings amount you earn through the ACO but it may also affect your payments at a claims level as it is part of your MIPS score. This category is the practice's responsibility to file as CMS will not allow the ACO to file for you.

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Learn More:

- Review the 2018 resources in the Quality Payment Program Resource Library on <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Resource-Library/2018-Resources.html>
- Contact the Quality Payment Program Service Center at qpp@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292
- If you have more questions, your Quality Coordinators are a great resource when it comes to Promoting Interoperability, you can contact yours by email or by calling 702.608.0417 or 775.241.3613.

2019 Recruitment – In Full Swing...

Silver State ACO has begun our recruitment process for 2019. If you know of any practices that would like to join, please let us know. The person who forwards the greatest number of “leads” will be awarded a special prize at the October practice meeting.

Are All ACOs “Created Equal”?

The answer, in short, is NO.

You may have heard that there are some groups in town who are trying to create a new ACO. We understand that competition in the marketplace is generally a good idea. Please keep in mind, however, that experience in the ACO business is vitally important toward helping you fulfill quality reporting requirements, as well as to earning shared savings. That’s what increases the probability of YOU getting a check. Don’t be misled by promises that may not be achievable. Please be sure to call us if you have any questions.

Quote of the Month –

“An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away”

True? Or Not?

This common English-language proverb originated in Wales as "Eat an apple on going to bed, and you’ll keep the doctor from earning his bread" and was used until the end of the 19th century.

A 2011 study found that consumption of apples and pears might prevent strokes.

A 2012 study found that apple consumption significantly lowered bad cholesterol levels in middle-aged adults.

In 2013, a British Medical Journal study compared the effects of prescribing people in the UK over age 50 either an apple or a statin a day. The study concluded that both interventions would be similarly effective.

A 2015 study looked directly at the relationship between apple consumption and physician visits and found no evidence that the proverb was true. The study did, however, find that people who ate an apple a day used fewer prescription medications.

However, a 2011 study found that adding one ‘Golden Delicious’ apple to the daily diet of a small group of overweight men led to higher levels of LDL cholesterol and triglycerides. The results were attributed to the higher sugar and low-phenolic content of ‘Golden Delicious’ apples.

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That being said - the American Heart Association recommends eating eight or more fruit and vegetable servings every day. They are high in vitamins, minerals and fiber, while low in fat and calories. Also, variety matters, so try a wide range of fruits and veggies, which may help control your weight and blood pressure.

So, overall, we vote "true".

Thought for the Day

On application forms, when I'm asked who to contact in an emergency – I always respond "Ambulance or Police". I mean, really, what's my husband (wife) going to do?

GO KNIGHTS!

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