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*Newsletters, who we are,  
who our members are,  
preferred providers,  
hospitalists, board of  
directors, management,  
results*

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## Silver State ACO – Sharing the Success with Those who Helped Make it Happen

When CMS notified SSACO that we had earned Shared Savings for 2015, the Board calculated how the money would be distributed. They, obviously, took into account the relative size of each of the practices. But they also noted that all practices are not created equal. In other words, some practices had particularly high quality scores which contributed to the ACO's overall quality score which, in turn, determined how much of the savings CMS would share with us. Other practices contributed greatly to the success of SSACO by controlling costs, which helped us minimize overall expenditures.



The Board adjusted distribution to the practices' based on the practices overall cost and quality scores. In so doing, there were remaining funds. The Board considered those who helped SSACO achieve savings by being dedicated to our objectives – lowering costs while maintaining – or improving – quality of care. And then – the “aha” moment. Why not reward the “front line” for keeping the practice attentive to the ACO's goals? And, so, the Board voted to reward practice managers and staff. In particular, those staff members who attended Practice meetings during 2015 and 2016 received a cash payment for each meeting attended. Checks were distributed during the first two weeks of December. Congratulations to those who received checks (and to their families and friends who will be getting nicer holiday gifts this year!) and THANK YOU to all our practice managers and staff who helped us achieve savings. We won't know results of 2016 operations until July, 2017, but the Board has sent a very strong message to practice managers – help us and we will be sure to try to help you!

## Hold the Dates:

2017

### Practice Meetings

January 25, 2017-  
Summerlin Hospital  
11:30 a.m.

April 5, 2017 –  
Henderson Hospital –  
7:30 a.m.

June 21, 2017

October 25, 2017



From all of us at  
Silver State ACO

**BRAVO!** Biggest checks went to:

Akilah Andrades – Nevada Heart and Vascular  
Carrie Reilly – Diagnostic Center of Medicine  
Joanna Villanueva – Nevada Heart and Vascular  
Monique Vickrey – Nevada Heart and Vascular  
Petra Salyer – Nevada Cardiology  
Traci Morris – Nevada Cardiology  
Valerie Moldanado – Forte Family Practice

See more pictures, below.

## MACRA? MIPS? WHAT?

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) was signed into law in April 2015. One aspect of the law is to establish new ways to pay physicians for caring for Medicare beneficiaries. Quality reporting for groups and for ACOs will be changing. MIPS (Merit-based Incentive Payment System) is a new payment mechanism that will provide annual updates to physicians, based on performance. MIPS reporting will begin in 2017. There are four categories that providers will need to report on:

- Quality
- Cost
- Improvement Activities
- Advancing Care Information

The ACO will report all categories *with the exception* of Advancing Care Information. This category must be reported on by each practice. Advancing Care is a revised version of Meaningful Use. The ACO is unable to report this category for our participating providers. We are awaiting some final details from CMS and plan to present information on MIPS at the January practice meeting.

## Other Changes coming in 2017

- ACO Participant providers can now file PQRS separately from the ACO **ONLY** if the ACO fails to report on their behalf. There will be a secondary reporting period for these providers if the ACO did not report for them. (No need to worry. Silver State ACO has you covered!)
- Beneficiaries can now “attest” to a specific PCP and if that PCP is eligible the patient will be assigned to them regardless of who is billing the plurality of primary care services. We will pass on details for how to do this as soon as we receive them.

## First Practice Meeting of 2017

We know how busy you all are with the holidays, but January 25<sup>th</sup> will be here very soon. Please join us at 11:30 for lunch at Summerlin Hospital for our first practice meeting of the new year. Come learn about changes to quality reporting – and payments – beginning January 2017, meet the SSACO staff, meet staff from many of our *forty four* participating groups. Please be kind enough to rsvp.

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*Quote: “I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending.”*  
Fred Rogers, educated to be a minister, who made an effort to change programming when he was displeased with how television addressed children. He created, hosted and composed the theme music for “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood” which aired from 1969 to 2001.



Maris, Patrick (Nevada Heart and Vascular),  
Larry Preston (CEO - Silver State ACO) at  
the Nevada Healthcare Forum Holiday Mixer



Ginney Jones  
Kristensen Festenese Medical Group –  
Joining SSACO in 2017

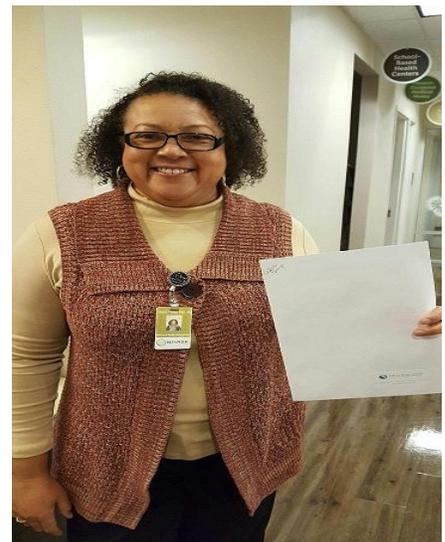


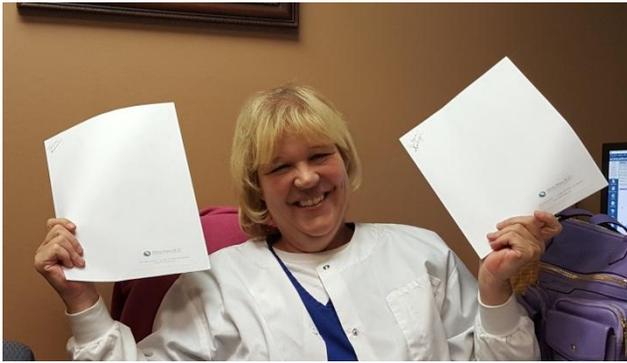
Hector Luna  
CareMore Medical Group



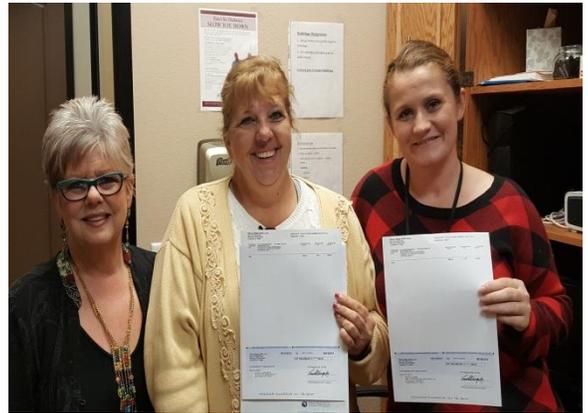
Joy Ruvalcaba (Betty H. Yao, MD) joining  
SSACO in 2017, Jackie Summers (Kindred)

Debra Toney  
Nevada Health Centers





Traci Morris  
Nevada Cardiology Associates

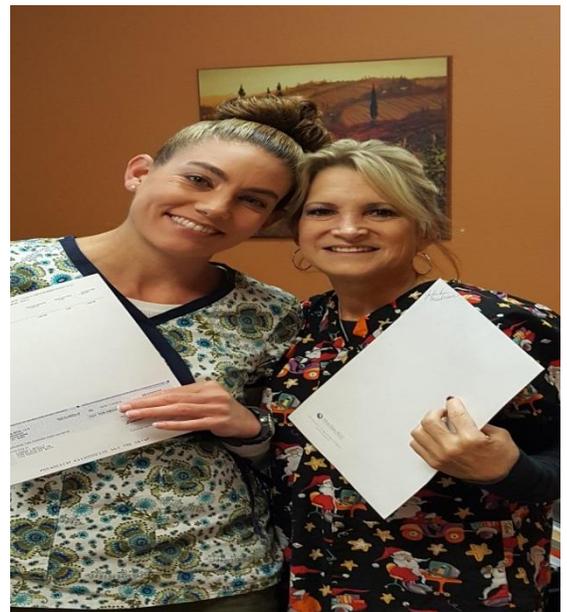


Vickie Anderson and Wendi Capers  
(Clifford Molin, MD) and  
Jackie Summers (Kindred)



Alexandria Cappetto and Alicia Cappetto (Doctors  
Center at Redrock), Rena Kantor (Silver State ACO)

Carrie Reilly and Julie Friedman  
Diagnostic Center of Medicine



Teida Clark  
Red Rock Medical Center

Joanne Villanueva, Janet Dobbins,  
Cassandra Ashburn and Iriana Thomas  
Nevada Heart and Vascular Center

