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Contact Us:

(702) 608-0417
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SilverStateACO.com

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

Deadline Approaching

We've said it before and we'll say it again because it is just so important. The deadline to file Advancing Care Information is March 31, 2018.

Advancing Care Information ("ACI", previously known as Meaningful Use) is important to your practice as well as to the ACO. Filing ACI for 2017 can affect your CMS reimbursement rate. Filing ACI now may increase reimbursement rates for 2019; not filing can reduce the reimbursement.

In addition, filing ACI is double weighted for quality measures scoring for the ACO. The score that the ACO earns, overall, will affect how much CMS will pay Silver State ACO, should we earn shared savings for 2017. Had SSACO's scores been slightly better for 2016, we would have been able to distribute nearly \$1 million more to our practices. It's that important!

The ACO cannot file ACI on your behalf, as per CMS rules.

However, there are resources available to help. If you need assistance filing ACI, please reach out to HealthInsight, a private non-profit community based organization working with the State of Nevada, dedicated to improving healthcare systems. For additional information, contact Aaron Hubbard at HealthInsight: AHubbard@healthinsight.org or 702-948-0306.

Silver State ACO Website

Remember that the SSACO website (www.silverstateaco.com) contains many resources that can be helpful to your practice. You will find a listing of all 50 SSACO Participants, our most up-to-date Preferred Provider Network listing, as well as their addresses and phone numbers. In addition, there is information about 2018 quality measures, past results and program regulations, as well as a recording of a training session about HCC scores and their importance, sponsored last year by SSACO. (And, of course, past issues of the SSACO newsletter).

Compliance Reminder – Do NOT Send Patient Data via Email or Text

HIPAA. PHI. Not just letters. It's the law. We are all tasked with protecting sensitive information, including any medical data which can be identified with a particular patient. You may not realize that even a minimum of information can identify a patient. Please be sure to ALWAYS send ANY patient data only via fax or by ENCRYPTED email or ENCRYPTED text.

We understand that some of our groups are small and have limited

Hold the Date:

Next 2018 Practice Meeting:

Wednesday,
April 18, 2018 –Centennial Hills Hospital –
7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

- Meet other participants and SSACO staff
- Hear about the benefits you already have as a Participant in SSACO
- Learn about Goals, Benefits and Quality Measures for 2018
- Win Prizes

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availability to IT professionals, or do not have financial resources to pay for a full scale encryption service for all communication. There are, however, numerous dependable, robust and FREE encryption services available on the web. Although we do not endorse nor recommend any particular service, you might want to consider SendInc or ProtonMail.

In addition, if you need to get information to your practice's SSACO Quality Coordinator, you can always fax it (702-598-1899). If it's cumbersome, feel free to call your Quality Coordinator who will come by your office to pick it up.

Clinical Specialists? Quality Coordinators? Who Are They and What Do They Do?

As a service to our Participating practices, and in an attempt to help SSACO be successful, we have staff that is highly trained in what CMS requires for Medicare quality reporting. Originally referred to as Clinical Specialists, they are now titled Quality Coordinators, as that more accurately describes what their function is.

Our Quality Coordinators have spent many hours learning the particulars of what CMS will accept from the ACO, including specifications, parameters, and exclusions. In addition, in conjunction with each other and the entire SSACO team, they have also identified opportunities and recommendations for gathering necessary data. In some instances, they've developed forms to help practices address missing specifics.

Over the course of the year, a practice's Quality Coordinator will review medical records, meet with the practice staff and/or providers, and deliver "gaps in care" reports. This helps the practice understand not only what's missing in any particular record but, more importantly, what's generally missing from records for that practice. This can help identify trends which lead to identifying better practices and policies for the future. In addition, SSACO helps practices identify opportunities for delivering preventative care while simultaneously increasing revenue. The practice may do so by providing services such as Medicare Annual Wellness Visits and Chronic Care Management. SSACO data can help practices identify which patients are eligible for these services.

Each year, at the beginning of January, CMS delivers a "sampling" of patients from the *previous* year, for quality reporting. This is a list of specific patients and particular questions for those patients. The responses will be used by CMS to calculate quality scores which will, in turn, affect how much money will be returned to practices, should SSACO earn shared savings. SSACO Quality Coordinators are responsible for accessing each practice's medical records to gather the data for the sampled patients and enter it into Health Endeavors. Health Endeavors is the IT provider with whom SSACO contracts for receiving as well as submitting data from / to CMS on our behalf. Then, at the beginning of March (the CMS deadline), Health Endeavors submits quality reporting data to CMS on behalf of SSACO. At that point Quality Coordinators begin focusing on quality measures for the current year.

Each of SSACO's practices has a specific Quality Coordinator assigned to it. Although we attempt to keep the specified Quality Coordinator the same throughout the year so that there is continuity in conversation and follow up, there may be some reassignments as SSACO continues to grow. We

appreciate your understanding and flexibility. Our new 2018 groups will be meeting their Quality Coordinators this week and next.

SSACO Staff Highlight - Meet Tommy Ahsan



Tommy Ahsan, Financial and Utilization Analyst for Silver State ACO

Tommy, a Las Vegas native, graduated from the Meadows School and then earned his undergraduate degree in Finance and Management at the University of Miami Business School. He went to work in the credit department at Wells Fargo and then at Bank of Nevada. Tommy began work on his Master's degree at Duke University, but took some time off from his studies when an opportunity presented itself for him to do analysis for SSACO.

Although he works "behind the scenes", Tommy is an integral part of the analysis team at SSACO and continues to work on his Master's in Business Management at Duke University. Tommy should complete his degree in May 2018.

Tommy is a lifelong Philadelphia Eagles fan, though he says he'll root for the Las Vegas Raiders. He would not commit to what he would do should the Eagles and Raiders ever meet at the Super Bowl.



Tommy's new friend, Quinn, a purebred Blue Nose Pitbull

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SSACO Practice Meetings

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Mark your calendars – Wednesday, April 18th at Centennial Hills Hospital. There will be two sessions – one at 7:30 am and one at 11:30 am. Please email or call, before the meeting, with ideas for anything you'd like discussed or questions you'd like answered.

Thought for the Month

“As we celebrate Women’s History Month this March, it’s important to remember the key role women have played in promoting a better understanding and relationships between our country and the rest of the world.” Elaine Chao (1953 -), current US Secretary of Transportation, was the first Chinese American in U.S. history to be appointed to a President’s Cabinet. Ms. Chao was born in Taiwan to Chinese parents who had left mainland China in 1949. They immigrated to the United States when she was eight years old. She graduated Dartmouth College and earned an MBA degree from Harvard Business School, has served as Deputy Secretary of Transportation and as Director of the Peace Corps under President George H.W. Bush as well as the U.S. Secretary of Labor under President George W. Bush. She is married to U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, current Senate Majority leader.

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