



In this Issue

- UMC messages now included in Experian Notification System
- Beneficiary Notifications
- CMS wants your input
- Cybersecurity Protection Starts with Employees
- Safe summer

Upcoming Practice Meetings:

Southern Nevada:
Wednesday, Sept. 11th at
Desert Springs Hospital

Northern Nevada: Thursday,
Sept. 12th at NNMC Sparks
Medical Building

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Contact Us:

(702) 800-7084

(775) 391-6484

Compliance Line:

(702) 751-0834

[SilverStateACO@](mailto:SilverStateACO@SilverStateACO.com)

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Alyssa, Bruce, Estela,
Heather, Jackie, Jamie,
Jessica S., Larry, Martha,
Rena, Rhonda, Sara, Scott,
Sharon, Tommy

Experian Notification System - Improvements and Updates - University Medical Center Messages Now Added



Last month we reported that additional upgrades were in the process of being implemented for the Experian Care Coordination Manager notification system. We're thrilled to announce the newest upgrade – the addition of notifications from UMC. You will now be notified when a patient is admitted to, discharged from, or registered at the ER at UMC. This increases the coverage to nearly all hospitals in the Las Vegas Valley. We'd like to thank UMC for their efforts in working with Experian and Silver State ACO (SSACO) to get this done for the benefit of our practices and their patients. This enhancement has now been implemented, but it may take a little while before all messages are displayed.

Beneficiary Notices – Required by CMS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to develop and adjust directives and rulings for ACOs. They attempt to balance the need for beneficiaries to understand their rights and benefits, with the need for practices to be able to function as efficiently as possible, thereby delivering the best possible care to their patients.

When they joined Silver State ACO, each Participant received a poster which included the SSACO logo along with specific CMS verbiage briefly explaining what an ACO is and how it will – or will not – affect the patient. These posters need to be displayed in every office where patients are seen. At the bottom of the poster, patients are directed to request additional information from the front desk if they have questions. The front desk of each office has a two page document, again

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using verbiage directly from CMS. At the bottom of that clarification, patients are directed to call 1-800-MEDICARE if they still have questions.

The requirement to have a poster has not changed. Please let us know if you need a replacement or additional poster (for example, if you open a new clinic location) or the two page clarification. All posters and notifications are also available in Spanish.

CMS has announced that they will be adding additional notification requirements in their pursuit of finding the right balance between keeping patients apprised of their rights and helping practices without adding undo work for them. Watch future newsletters for details as they become available.



Your Chance to be Heard - CMS Seeks Public Input

Recently, CMS issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking new ideas from the public on how to continue the progress of the *Patients over Paperwork* initiative. Since launching in fall 2017, Patients over Paperwork has streamlined regulations to significantly cut the “red tape” that weighs down our healthcare system and takes clinicians away from their primary mission—caring for patients. As of January 2019, CMS estimates that through regulatory reform alone, the healthcare system will save an estimated 40 million hours and \$5.7 billion through 2021. These estimated savings come from both final and proposed rules.

The RFI on Reducing Administrative Burden to Put Patients over Paperwork invites patients and their families, the medical community, and other healthcare stakeholders to recommend further changes to rules, policies, and procedures that would shift more of clinicians’ time and our healthcare system’s resources from needless paperwork to high-quality care that improves patient health.

“Patients over Paperwork remains a top priority and a driving force in lowering healthcare costs,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. “In step with the Trump Administration’s Cut the Red Tape initiative to reduce overly burdensome regulations across the federal government, Patients over Paperwork has made great inroads in clearing away needlessly complex, outdated, or duplicative requirements that drain clinicians’ time but contribute little to quality of care or patient health. We are doubling down on efforts to decrease healthcare costs by reducing administrative burden. In removing what doesn’t add value, we’re making room for what does. Our goal is to ensure that doctors are

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spending more time with their patients and less time in administrative tasks. Since launching Patients over Paperwork in late 2017, CMS has worked closely with the healthcare community to relieve regulatory burden and maintain flexibility and efficiency in Medicare and Medicaid, and we're excited about the innovative ideas that today's RFI will bring as we build on our progress and continue to achieve cost and time savings."

CMS is also committed to changing the overall culture at CMS. A dedicated team was established and continues to work to ensure CMS is minimizing burden across the agency. Every center has helped reduce the burden through the federal rulemaking process, sub regulatory guidance, and policy updates.

The recently released RFI provides an opportunity to share new ideas and continue the national conversation on improving healthcare delivery. CMS is especially seeking innovative ideas that broaden perspectives on potential solutions to relieve burden and ways to improve:

- Reporting and documentation requirements
- Coding and documentation requirements for Medicare or Medicaid payment
- Prior authorization procedures
- Policies and requirements for rural providers, clinicians, and beneficiaries
- Policies and requirements for dually enrolled (i.e., Medicare and Medicaid) beneficiaries
- Beneficiary enrollment and eligibility determination
- CMS processes for issuing regulations and policies

BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR OPINION COUNT BY RESPONDING TO THE RFI.

The RFI on Reducing Administrative Burden to Put Patients over Paperwork is posted in the *Federal Register*. Here is the link to additional information and to instructions for filing YOUR comments: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/06/11/2019-12215/request-for-information-reducing-administrative-burden-to-put-patients-over-paperwork>

Comments must be submitted by August 12, 2019.



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More information on the Patients over Paperwork initiative is available at: <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/story-page/patients-over-paperwork.html>

Cybersecurity Starts with Employees

“A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.” No firewall, anti-virus protection or even complicated password can protect a company more than conscientious and dedicated employees.

The problem is that cybercriminals are constantly evolving their systems, becoming more sophisticated and successful at cyberattacks and making it more difficult for a company’s IT team to protect its data. Employees must be educated and trained. Every company should enforce a policy that prohibits employees from installing any apps (from known or unknown contacts or third-party app stores) on a company device, unless specifically reviewed, vetted and approved by the company IT team.

Employees may not realize that their actions, even once they’ve left the office can still put their company at risk. Therefore, there should be a strictly enforced policy that no company device (such as laptops or iPad) may be used outside the office unless the network on which they will be used has been identified and proven secure. An employee using a company device on an insecure network (such as a poorly protected home network or airport Wi-Fi) could expose the entire company’s data to cybercriminals, thereby putting the entire company at risk.

There are courses available to educate leadership of best practices for implementing protocols to protect a company data. We highly recommend you look into these.

Healthy Aging Highlights from the National Institute on Aging at NIH

Cognitive health—the ability to clearly think, learn, and remember—is an important component of brain health. Taking care of your physical health may help your cognitive health.

You can:

1. Get [recommended health screenings](#).
2. Manage chronic health problems like diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, and high cholesterol.
3. Consult with your healthcare provider about the medicines you take and possible side effects on memory, sleep, and brain function.
4. Reduce risk for brain injuries due to falls and other accidents.

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5. Limit use of alcohol. (Remember, some medicines can be dangerous when mixed with alcohol.)
 6. **Quit smoking**, if you smoke.
 7. Get enough sleep, generally 7-8 hours each night.
- Visit the NIH website to learn more about [cognitive health and older adults](#).

Reminder - Last two practice meetings in 2019:

Southern Nevada:

Desert Springs Hospital - Wednesday, September 11th
Summerlin Hospital - Tuesday, November 12th

Northern Nevada:

NNMC Sparks MOB - Thursday, September 12th
NNMC Sparks MOB – Thursday, November 21st



William Carlos Williams (1883 – 1963) was an American poet and physician closely associated with modernism and imagism. In addition to his writing, Williams had a long career as a physician practicing both pediatrics and general medicine.



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