Newsletter



August 2019 Volume 50

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<u>Upcoming Practice</u> Meetings:

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

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

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CMS Announces MIPS Scores for 2018

Silver State ACO LLC's Performance Score

The details below are your performance scores in each category.



Yes, you read that right. CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) recently announced MIPS scores for 2018. As posted on the QPP (Quality Payment Program) website, Silver State ACO earned a perfect score.

Achieving this required a huge joint effort. Practices had to successfully file Promoting Interoperability and had to work with Silver State ACO Quality Coordinators to complete quality reporting, to close gaps in care, and to correct any issues identified.

We should note that each group received the full 20 points for Improvement Activity just by participating in Silver State ACO and that the Cost category is not considered in calculation of the score because the practice participates in an ACO.

Experian Notification System: Updates and Upgrades

Silver State ACO continues to work with Experian to improve the Care Coordination Management platform, the system which notifies our practices when their patient has registered in the ER, been admitted to the hospital or, perhaps most importantly, discharged from an acute care facility. Practices that have been utilizing the information gleaned

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from Experian Care Coordination Management have seen benefits both to the patient (quicker attention to post-acute follow-up) as well as to the practice (additional revenue from the ability to bill for a Transitional Care Management visit in a timely manner).

The most recent update to the Care Coordination Management program is the removal of questions for practices to respond to when being notified of a discharge. Many practices found the questions time consuming and the followup screens, prompted by responses to



those questions, bothersome. These have now been removed, allowing for a simpler, more streamlined notification system.

Another recent update allows practices to utilize certain "tags". When filtering your messages within the system, simply enter "DC" in the field marked "Tags" to see all discharges. Remember to also refine the date range you'd like to see as well as the status filter. (If you choose to filter by ALL you will see all your discharges – those you've already worked and closed, and those still active, as well as those that are brand new). Click "Apply Filters".

Additional tags and updates will be discussed in future newsletters. If your practice is not yet utilizing the system to its maximum potential, or if you would like some more information about how to maximize it, please don't hesitate to contact Silver State ACO. We'd be happy to set up a one-on-one meeting to explain the benefits of this extraordinary system.

<u>Health Endeavors – Patient Lookup</u>

SSACO, on behalf of its Participants, contracts with Health Endeavors, an IT company based in Scottsdale, AZ, to receive and initially parse all claims data received from CMS. Health Endeavors is also utilized for quality reporting.

Health Endeavors receives, and organizes, the claims data received from CMS. There are many ways that Health Endeavors presents the data, also giving a user the ability to create personalized reports focusing on specific datasets. One pre-set shortcut that Health Endeavors currently offers is Patient Lookup, which shows ALL data on a particular patient over the previous four years. This gives providers a very quick link to the full patient history. Patient Lookup can be accessed directly at the top right hand corner of the Health Endeavors landing page by entering a patient's first and last name.

Health Endeavors has just announced that Patient Lookup will now be accessible directly. In other words, if a practice would like to look up

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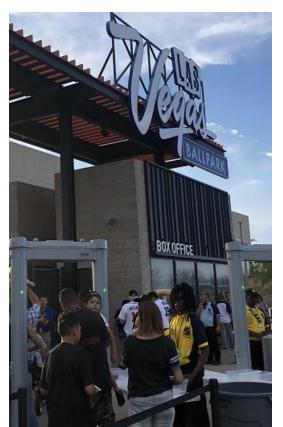
Dog Days of summer.

information about a particular patient, they need not log in to the Health Endeavors platform which takes them first to the landing page with various sets of data, and which may take a few moments to load. Users with valid logins to Health Endeavors will now be able to go directly to www.patientlookup.com. This will be a time saving tool and should available during the first week of August.

ACHE Event sponsored by US Health Services

The Nevada chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) held a networking event at the new Las Vegas Ballpark on Thursday evening, July 25th, watching the Las Vegas Aviators take on the El Paso Chupacabras.

It was a lovely evening of fun to welcome new ACHE members and



network with other leaders in the healthcare industry. The event was sponsored by US Health Systems (USHS), the company that now serves as Care Coordinators for Silver State ACO. USHS is at the forefront of meaningful and creative ways to engage patients and make a difference to their lives, as well as to the success of Silver State ACO and each of its practices. By sponsoring the event, USHS shows confidence in the healthcare leaders who are members of ACHE.

It was a great Las Vegas evening, spoiled only by the fact that El Paso won.





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SSACO Profile: Tommy Ahsan, Director of Analytics

In November, 2016, Tommy Ahsan joined SSACO as a data analyst, having completed his Bachelor's degree at University of Miami. In the



years since, he has contributed greatly to the effectiveness of how data, and particularly claims data, helps SSACO achieve its goal of improving results for both patients and practices.

While continuing as an analyst at Silver State ACO, Tommy returned to Duke University for a Master's degree in Management which he completed in record time, spending his vacations in Las Vegas keeping SSACO on point.

Tommy recently also earned his CHFP (Certified Healthcare Financial Professional) certification

from HFMA (Healthcare Financial Management Association). He is now Director of Analytics for Silver State ACO, identifying trends and following changes in actual claims data from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid). In so doing, he creates ideas for new paths and systems to deliver excellent care for our patients, while controlling costs and utilization, and maximizing efficiency and financial benefits for our Participants.

Tommy is a dedicated Real Madrid soccer fan and spends his spare time with Quinn and Simba, his two Staffordshire Terriers (a pit bull breed) and training in Brazilian jiu jitsu. (Between the dogs and jiu jitsu – definitely don't mess with Tommy!).

50th Edition of the Silver State ACO Newsletter



Here we are. The 50th edition of the SSACO Newsletter. Since the first edition we've seen Silver State ACO grow to 44 practices and over 41,000 attributed patients. We've earned shared savings three years in a row and, in the

process, created working relationships and friendships. We are grateful for all our participants and hope and trust that these relationships will help guide us through the next phases of SSACO. The pages of these newsletters are for important notices, opportunities to educate our practices, and a forum to share ideas. Please share yours. If you've

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developed a system or process that has really helped your practice, please share it.

Volume 50. A hallmark. Here's to many more to come!

"Dog Days of Summer"... Why not Cats?

The ancient Romans used the term "dies caniculares" (literally "dog days") to describe the hottest, most humid days. This came about because of the association of the star Sirius being in the sky on those beastly summer days. Sirius was known as the "Dog Star" because it is the brightest star in the constellation Canis (Dog) Major (large).

Interesting that the expression has lasted this long (without most people understanding the expression...).

<u>Reminder - Last two practice meetings in 2019</u>: Southern Nevada:

Desert Springs Hospital - Wednesday, September 11th
Two sessions: 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Summerlin Hospital - Tuesday, November 12th
Two sessions: 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Northern Nevada:

NNMC Sparks MOB - Thursday, September 12th
At 5 p.m.

NNMC Sparks MOB - Thursday, November 21st
At 5 p.m.



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