



January 2026

# Newsletter

Volume 116

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Silver State ACO's first full year of operations was in 2014. Over the twelve years since, SSACO has worked hard to benefit all involved – providers, staff, and especially, beneficiaries. In the process, we've earned Shared Savings for ten consecutive years (2015-2024) and are proud to say that we have saved Medicare over \$290,400,000. In 2024 alone, we saved CMS more than \$28,600,000 and, of that, earned more than \$21,000,000. Above all, we have helped improve patient experience and outcomes, also substantially reducing readmissions.

The beginning of a new year is always a good time for introspection. What have we done right, what have we done wrong? How can we build on our strengths? How do we strive to change weaknesses to improve, overall? These processes are true for both individuals as well as for companies and groups.

At Silver State ACO, we have been blessed with outstanding Participants and Partners. We are fully aware of all the hard work that everyone has contributed to achieving this success. We want to take this opportunity to THANK YOU! Each person adds his/her specific talent to the mix, making it possible. We appreciate you all and wish you a very Happy New Year, filled with good health, warm family time, wonderful relationships, and a peaceful world.

Please work with your quality coordinators during January and February, as they begin the task of collecting data and reviewing documentation for the patients listed by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) for 2025 quality reporting.



**NOTE:**

Next Practice Meetings:  
*Southern Nevada*  
*Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026*

*Northern Nevada:*  
*Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026*

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## MOVING ON TO 2026: WELCOME OUR NEW PARTICIPANT PRACTICES

CMS created Accountable Care Organizations as a means to allow doctors and health professionals to work together to provide more coordinated care. This includes allowing them to share patient information and, as such, ACOs are very carefully monitored and strictly overseen by CMS. ACOs are allowed to add or drop practices only once per year.

Silver State ACO is very proud of its ability to bring practices together, to work toward the common good for its beneficiaries. We work with our Participant practices over the course of the entire year. We research and study which protocols or workflows are most effective, sharing the information with other Participants, thereby benefitting all practices, their patients and the ACO as a whole. Each summer, we carefully review selected practices to ensure that their focus and goals are in line with ours. Only then are they invited to join Silver State ACO for the following performance year, beginning January 1st.

We are excited to welcome five new practices to Silver State ACO, including another one in Arizona, continuing SSACO's expansion.

Please welcome our new Silver State ACO Participants,  
effective January 1, 2026:

**PDS Medical Group**

**Limitless Medical Group**

**Sunrise Internal Medicine, Bullhead City**

**Safe Harbor Medical**

**Advanced Family Medicine**



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These participant practices have been carefully selected. They meet not only strict CMS guidelines, but also Silver State ACO standards. We have been successful because of the contribution of each participant practice and team member. We believe that each of the participant practices joining us this year will be a beneficial addition.

One of the new participant practices is in Northern Arizona as Silver State ACO's presence is expanded into that area. With these practices joining, Silver State ACO ("SSACO") will be comprised of fifty participant practices, representing over 1,200 providers, in 2026.

Additional information about all SSACO participant practices, including provider listing, address and phone numbers, is available on our website: [www.SilverStateACO.com](http://www.SilverStateACO.com).



On to a great 2026. Cheers!

## **GAP CLOSURE CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

In October, we introduced the Gap Closure Contest, an initiative aimed at celebrating and rewarding practices that go above and beyond in closing gaps in CMS-required quality metrics. The contest not only encouraged practices to enhance their quality scores but also provided an opportunity to improve patient care, all while competing for a prize pool of up to **\$12,000**.

Throughout the year, our Quality Coordinators work closely with practices, reviewing medical records and providing Gap in Care Reports monthly to identify patients who may be missing key elements of care. To build on these efforts and finish the year strong, the contest was held from October 20<sup>th</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup>, targeting several key quality measures.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all practices that participated, this year's contest achieved impressive milestones. Over 20% of total gaps were closed which included:



- 487 Controlled A1c Screenings
- 895 Controlled Blood Pressure Measurements
- 983 Breast Cancer Screenings
- 2,872 Depression Screenings

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**We are thrilled to announce the winners and celebrate their  
incredible efforts!**

**Diabetes A1c Poor Control**

- By Percentage: St Clare Medical Services
- By Total: Nevada Heart and Vascular

**Controlling High Blood Pressure**

- By Percentage: Daulat Medical Center
- By Total: Carson Tahoe Medical Group

**Breast Cancer Screening**

- By Percentage: Calderon Medical Group
- By Total: Nevada Heart and Vascular

**Depression Screening and Follow-Up**

- By Percentage: Calderon Medical Group
- By Total: Carson Medical Group

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants for embracing this contest and making a meaningful impact on patient health. Your efforts have been truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing continued success and quality care improvements in the future.

**Congratulations once again to all our winners, and thank  
you to all practices for your incredible hard work!**

**PREFERRED PROVIDERS – REMINDER**

Preferred Providers are *not* Participants or “members” of an ACO. They are facilities and providers who the ACO has identified as experts in their fields and whose goals and services align with the ACO’s mission.

Please check the Silver State ACO Preferred Provider Network listing. The most up-to-date version is always available on our [website](http://www.silverstateaco.com), including an easily printed version.

As Medicare fee-for-service patients, the ACO’s beneficiaries can see any provider they choose for healthcare services. However, we know that if the provider with whom a patient has a long-standing, respectful, and trusting relationship makes a recommendation, the



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patient is likely to follow it. Please help us maintain the continuum of care by referring to a preferred provider.

Have you read this carefully? If so, to be entered to win a prize at the February practice meeting, you may respond to the newsletter email with "New Year, New Resolution" in the subject line.

## **SKILLED NURSING FACILITY – 3-Day Rule Waiver - UPDATE**

In our December 2025 newsletter, we reviewed the SSACO 3-Day Rule Waiver granted by CMS. The waiver allows a Skilled Nursing Facility to be paid for services rendered to a Silver State ACO beneficiary even if that patient did not have a 3-day stay in an acute facility (which is generally required). There are protocols to be followed, including that the SNF must be contracted with Silver State ACO and specifically approved by CMS. A list of those SNFs was attached to the newsletter.



Attached to this newsletter is an updated listing of SNFs to which a patient can be admitted, as well as an updated Beneficiary

Notice. For 2026, we're pleased to welcome Las Ventanas as a preferred SNF in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, one of the SNFs originally included on the list has since been removed by CMS. Please be sure to refer only to the most recent list.

## **ARKOS**

Arkos is Silver State ACO's care management partner. In particular, Arkos assists in following up with SSACO beneficiaries who are discharged from an acute or sub-acute setting. All their work is done telephonically.

Arkos reaches out to patients, making sure that their care is coordinated by ensuring that home health, if ordered, has connected with them; that DME, if required, has been delivered, and that they understand how to use it. In addition, they make sure that the patient has made an appointment to follow up with his/her PCP, assisting in making that appointment, if necessary. In anticipation of the PCP visit, they also aim to complete a TOC (Transition of Care) document which is a review that includes the patient's reason for being in the hospital, and a listing of all medications. This TOC is faxed to the practice to save time at the patient's upcoming appointment.

It has come to our attention that some practices, when called by their patients asking about Arkos, are warning their patients not to talk to them. Although we're pleased that practices are alert to scams, we are disappointed that the practices are not aware of Arkos's

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partnership and value. Note: there is no cost - to the practice or to the patient - for using Arkos services.

Attached to this newsletter is an overview of Arkos's services and mission. **Please share this with your entire staff.**

## **COMPLIANCE REMINDER – OIG List**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintains a list of individuals and entities who are excluded from federally funded health care programs. Before offering an applicant a job, the list should be checked to ensure that the applicant has not been excluded. In addition, the beginning of the year is an excellent time to review your entire employee roster against the OIG listing. A link to the OIG list is [here](#).



## **HOLIDAY MIXERS**

Silver State ACO celebrated the holidays at the annual Nevada Healthcare Forum Holiday Mixers. We had fun but also encouraged everyone to "give back" by donating toys for children facing challenges during this holiday season.

The Northern NV Holiday Mixer was held on Thursday, December 11th at X-Golf at the Summit Mall in Reno. Toys were collected and donated to the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.



Guests join Dave, Mitchell, Jacquie, and, far right, Savannah (SSACO Quality Coordinator), and Larry Preston (SSACO CEO) with the star of the show, his grandson, Bentley

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The Southern NV Holiday Mixer was held on Thursday, December 4th at Sierra Gold. Over 1,100 toys were collected and donated to the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation.

And everyone had fun!



From left: Linda McCorry, Bill Parsons, Gretchen Preston, Larry Preston, Mickey

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## 2026 Quarterly Practice Meeting Dates



### **SOUTHERN NEVADA**

Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
Wednesday, April 29, 2026  
Wednesday, July 29, 2026  
Wednesday, November 4, 2026

All Southern Nevada Practice meetings will be held at Summerlin Hospital and begin at 11:30 am. Lunch is served.

### **NORTHERN NEVADA**

*Thursday, February 12, 2026, at NNMC Sparks MOB, Ste 201*

*Thursday, April 30, 2026, at NNMC Sparks MOB, Ste 201*

*Thursday, July 30, 2026, at*

*Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center (1600 Medical Parkway, Carson City) Main Hospital – Valley View Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*

*Thursday, November 5, 2026, at NNMC Sparks MOB, Suite 201*

Northern Nevada Practice Meetings are scheduled for 5 pm Meet & Greet; Meeting begins at 5:30.

More photos from the Holiday Mixers



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Left: SACO  
Quality  
Coordinators  
Angela Peters  
and Sarah  
Whitney

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