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(775) 241-3613

SilverStateACO@SilverStateACO.com

Ashley, Estela, Iran,
Jessica, Larry, Rena,
Rhonda, Sara

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the victims, and their families, of the horrible tragedy that took place near the Las Vegas Strip on Sunday Night, October 1st. We, as a community, are all affected by the evil that led to the event and the sadness that is a result of it. We are grateful to our first responders and law enforcement agencies for their tireless and selfless efforts and pray that peace and tranquility be restored to our lives and the lives of all people of this great nation.

HCC Scoring – What’s that? Now I know!

In last month’s newsletter we described how correct coding and documenting can help CMS understand how sick your patients are and, therefore, how expensive their care should be. Coding correctly could help SSACO be successful, possibly leading to earned shared savings from CMS – i.e. more money in your pocket! Last month, SSACO sponsored HCC scoring education sessions for our practices. Carolynne Parker, CEO of Acute Practice Solutions LLC did training sessions at practice offices as well as one evening session at Henderson Hospital.



We are proud that 19 of our practices took advantage of this great opportunity. Opportunities such as these are presented to help your practice earn more and understand more, as well as help SSACO as a whole. Please take advantage of these opportunities, as well as the availability of our clinical specialists who can help identify other opportunities for you.

Left: Diagnostic Center of Medicine

Office Staff Meeting

Here's your next opportunity to learn something, be engaged, meet others involved in SSACO, and get a nice lunch (or breakfast) too. Our last office staff meetings for 2017 will be at Spring Valley Hospital on Wednesday, October 25th at 7:30 am and at 11:30 am. Please join us. You'll even be entered into a raffle when you RSVP to Iran@silverstateaco.com.

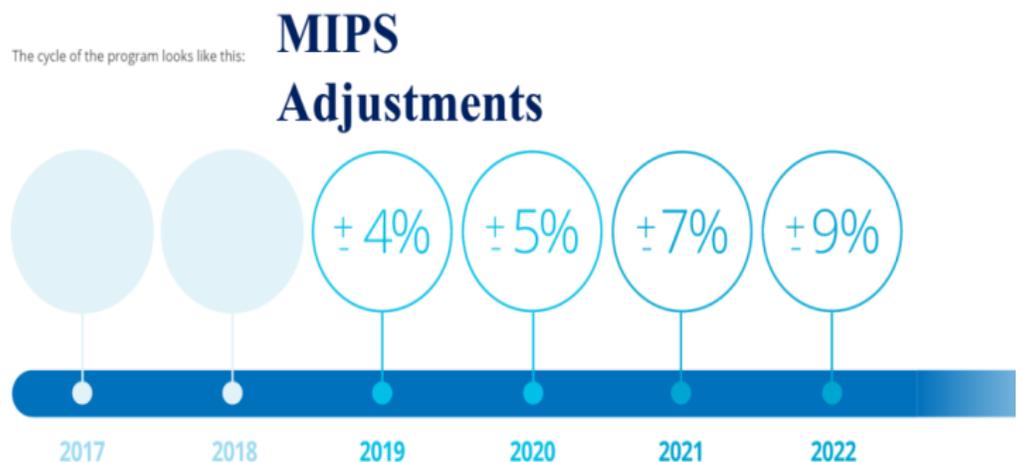
Advancing Care Information 101

With the year coming to an end, we wanted to provide a refresher course on *Advancing Care Information*. *Advancing Care Information* or ACI is one part of The Merit-Based Incentive Payment System, otherwise known as MIPS. Through MIPS you may earn a performance-based payment adjustment.

Advancing Care Information ends and replaces the *Medicare EHR Incentive Program* [also known as *Medicare Meaningful Use*]. This is a requirement for MIPS and is 30% of your MIPS score. *Advancing Care Information* is also used when calculating the overall Quality Score for the ACO and is double weighted.

Filing of *Advancing Care Information* [or lack of] will not only affect the Shared Savings amount you earn through the ACO but it will also affect your payments at a claims level.

So what does that mean for you? Starting in 2019, you will either earn a positive or negative payment adjustment at the claims level of up to 4%. As the program continues, the adjustments become more extreme as shown below and in 2022, you can end up earning or losing up to 9%.



For 2017 ACO Participant Practices, the ACO will report the MIPS categories of *Quality & Improvement Activities* for your practice. The *Cost* category will not apply in 2017. The category that you must report directly to CMS is *Advancing Care Information*. There are different paces for participation for 2017 as outlined on the next page. Remember something is better than nothing!

Hold the Date:

Final 2017 Office Staff Meetings

**October 25, 2017 –
Spring Valley Hospital –
7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.**

- Meet other participants and SSACO staff
- Learn about the benefits you already have as a Participant in SSACO
- WIN PRIZES

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Test Pace



Submit Something

Submit **some** data after
 January 1, 2017

Neutral or small
 payment adjustment

Partial Year



Submit a Partial Year

- Report for 90-day
 period after January 1,
 2017

- Small positive payment
 adjustment

Full Year



Submit a Full Year

- Fully participate
 starting January 1,
 2017

- Modest positive
 payment adjustment

For *Advancing Care Information* Practices should collect their data throughout the 2017 year. Like *Meaningful Use* in the past, you attest to *Advancing Care Information* through a qualified registry, your EMR, or the CMS website. The deadline to attest is **March 31, 2018**. Your practices EMR certification decides which grouping of measures you can use.

There are some measures that are not required but add performance and bonus points. We recommend attesting to as many measures as possible both required and non-required in order to achieve the highest score possible. Below is a list of both groupings and the required measures. Attached are specs for all measures for *Advancing Care Information*.

**Advancing Care Information
 Objectives and Measures:**

Base Score Required Measures

Objective	Measure
Protect Patient Health Information	Security Risk Analysis
Electronic Prescribing	e-Prescribing
Patient Electronic Access	Provide Patient Access
Health Information Exchange	Send a Summary of Care
Health Information Exchange	Request/Accept a Summary of Care

**2017 Advancing Care Information
 Transition Objectives and Measures:**

Base Score Required Measures

Objective	Measure
Protect Patient Health Information	Security Risk Analysis
Electronic Prescribing	e-Prescribing
Patient Electronic Access	Provide Patient Access
Health Information Exchange	Health Information Exchange

If you have questions, your Clinical Specialists are a great resource; you can contact yours by email or by calling 702-608-0417.

CMS has set up a website specifically for information on MIPS

<https://qpp.cms.gov/>

How to Succeed as an ACO – Little Steps Can Make a Big Difference

There are a number of things each practice can do which will help them (by increasing revenue and providing helpful programs for their patients) as well as help SSACO to be successful:

- a. Quality Reporting – Make it easy for your SSACO clinical specialist to access your records so that we can file CMS annual quality reporting for you.
- b. Be sure to file Advancing Care (previously known as Meaningful Use). This helps SSACO's overall quality score which determines how much we can earn in shared savings, and also helps avoid a downward adjustment in how much CMS pays directly to you on claims
- c. Implement, bill and use CMS programs – Chronic Care Management (with new codes and additional revenue opportunities for 2017), Annual Wellness Visits (AWV), and Transitional Care Management (TCM) visits. These visits are beneficial for the patient and also helps CMS identify you as the PCP for that patient.
- d. Refer in Network – Although Medicare Fee-for-Service patients have a right to see any provider, they are most likely to follow their doctor's recommendation. SSACO has a Preferred Provider Network for acute and post-acute care and for specialists. These preferred providers have been carefully selected for their quality of care. They also understand the need to control costs, if possible, by using the right level of care at the right time. They can help us to achieve success – but only if you help by referring to them.
- e. Be engaged. Ask questions. Invite a Silver State ACO representative to make a presentation at your office staff meeting so that the whole staff understands what the ACO is. Be sure to send representatives to our quarterly meetings (next one Oct. 25th at Spring Valley Hospital) to meet others involved in SSACO and have the opportunity to learn and ask questions.

More details in future newsletters.

Thoughts for the Day:

Singing in the shower is all fun and games until you get shampoo in your mouth. Then it just becomes a soap opera!

I got kicked out of the hospital. Apparently the sign "Stroke Patients Here" meant something completely different than I assumed.

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HCC Training



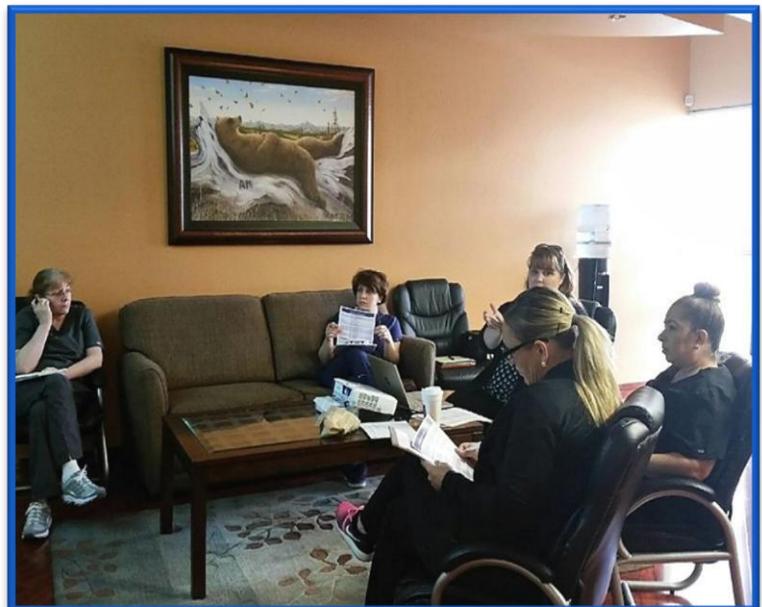
Left -
Carolynne Parker, CEO,
Acute Practice Solutions LLC



Right -
Sundance Medical Group



Left -
Jessica Lucero, APRN, Sundance Medical Group



Right -
Silverado Medical Clinic
(Ben Kermani, MD)

HCC Training



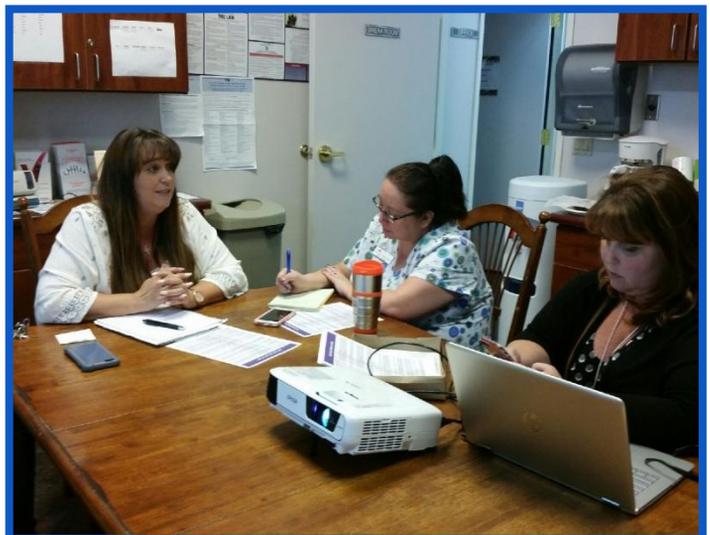
Left -
Carolyn Parker and Dr. Seema Sood,
Green Valley Primary Care



Right -
Jacobs Medical Associates



Left -
Carolyn Parker and
Valerie Maldonado, Forte Family Practice



Right -
Medical Group at Sun City