



Powered by The Valley Health System and Kindred Hospitals



July 2025

Newsletter

Volume

121

In this Issue:

- New Incentive for Annual Wellness Visits
- ALERT! Medicare Fraud Scheme Involving Phishing Fax Requests
- Spotlight: Promoting Interoperability: Temporary Pause in Electronic Care Reporting Onboarding
- Security: Mobile Device
- Practice Meeting Date Change
- Practice Meeting Dates

#VegasStrong



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New Incentive for Annual Wellness Visits: \$50 Bonus per Completed AWW!

Silver State ACO is excited to share an important update that rewards your dedication to providing exceptional care for your Medicare patients. As you know, **Medicare Annual Wellness Visits (AWVs)** are a vital service that not only support your patients' long-term health but also help close care gaps and elevate the overall quality of care across your practice.



To further support your efforts, **Silver State ACO is introducing a new bonus program** for our participant practices. Starting with services rendered in **2025**, your practice will receive a **\$50 bonus** for **each Medicare AWW completed and paid by Medicare** for your **ACO-attributed patients**.

Bonus Details:

- **Eligible CPT codes:** G0402, G0438, G0439, and G0468
- **Payment level:** Bonuses will be paid at the **TIN (practice) level**
- **Frequency:** Payments will be made **quarterly**
- **First payment:** We are currently processing bonuses for **Q1 2025**, with checks anticipated by the **end of July**

We are proud to support you in delivering preventive care that truly makes a difference. This new incentive is just one more way we're investing in your practice—and in the health of your patients. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Silver State ACO team.

(702) 751-0834

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Next Practice Meeting:
Southern Nevada
Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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ALERT! Medicare Fraud Scheme Involving Phishing Fax Requests

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has identified a fraud scheme targeting Medicare providers and suppliers. Scammers are impersonating CMS and sending phishing fax requests for medical records and documentation, falsely claiming to be part of a Medicare audit.

Please be aware that CMS does **NOT** initiate audits by requesting medical records via fax. Protect your information. If you receive a suspicious request, don't respond. If you think you got a fraudulent or questionable request, work with your Medical Review Contractor to confirm if it's real.

Spotlight: Promoting Interoperability: Temporary Pause in Electronic Care Reporting Onboarding

On June 6, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) shared an important update about the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), specifically the Promoting Interoperability performance category. This update follows a recent announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has temporarily paused onboarding new healthcare organizations (HCOs) to the Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) system.

The CDC is taking time to evaluate and improve the onboarding process. The goal is to create a more sustainable and scalable system for integrating healthcare data with public health agencies (PHAs). During this pause, the CDC will focus on enhancing how PHAs use eCR data and refining the current onboarding experience for healthcare providers.



This change directly impacts ACO Participating Providers who are required to report on the eCR measure to earn points under the Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange objective. With onboarding

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paused, some clinicians may find it difficult to move from Pre-production and Validation (Option 1) to Validated Data Production (Option 2)—a necessary step for ongoing compliance.

CMS intends to address these challenges in the upcoming 2026 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule, expected in Summer 2025. They will propose adjustments to accommodate the CDC's pause and invites public feedback once the rule is published.

In the meantime, clinicians may still qualify for full credit on the eCR measure by claiming one of the following exclusions:

- The clinician does not treat or diagnose any reportable diseases during the performance period
- The jurisdiction's Public Health Agency cannot receive eCR data using certified EHR technology
- No Public Health Agency in the jurisdiction has declared readiness to receive eCR data at least six months before the performance period starts

Please reach out to your Quality Coordinator if you have any questions or need any assistance understanding how this will affect your practice.

Security – Mobile Device

Mobile devices have become as prevalent in healthcare as they are in general. Smartphones, laptops and tablets are used in every medical setting, so the need to ensure the security of the data they collect and store is essential.



HealthIT.gov (official website of the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT organized under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) has tips for protecting and securing health information when using a mobile device:

- Always use a password or other authentication to access the device.
- Do not share the password or keep it with the device. Change the password regularly.

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- Install and enable encryption for sensitive information.
- Install remote wiping/disabling capability so that data can be deleted permanently from a lost or stolen device.
- Don't install or use file sharing applications. Sharing files can compromise security.
- Be sure the device has a firewall installed and kept updated.
- Install security software to protect against viruses, spyware, malware and other attacks.
- Update all security software regularly and always when told to do so by the manufacturer.
- Be wary and suspicious of any and all "apps" (applications) before using. Research the app and the company to ensure they are trusted and reputable, and that the app will perform only the function for which you intend it, before downloading or installing to a mobile device.
- Don't send or receive sensitive or protected health information when connected to public Wi-Fi unless the device uses a secure, encrypted connection.
- Keep track of the device! Portability, size and convenience are what make mobile devices so useful – but also what makes it challenging to maintain physical possession of them. They are, unfortunately, easily lost or stolen, risking unauthorized use and disclosure of patient health information. Protecting the device with a password and/or multiple levels of encryption or authorization helps but nothing works better than being sure the device is in your possession. And, when one maintains awareness of the device, its loss will be more quickly noticed, allowing the owner to disable and/or wipe the data remotely.
- Wipe all data stored on a mobile device before discarding it. Whether giving the device to another person or throwing it in the trash, always use a software tool intended for the specific purpose of deleting all stored secure health information to protect against unauthorized access.

Remember that nothing is as valuable or secure as an attentive, caring person. Any staff member who uses or accesses a mobile device is, ultimately, the most important security "device". Be sure to educate employees and require maintenance and updating of apps and passwords.

Educate. Repeat. Educate. Repeat.

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Did you read this newsletter carefully? If so, to be entered to win a prize at the July practice meeting, you may respond to the newsletter email with “Fireworks” in the subject line.

Practice Meeting Date Change!

The Northern Nevada Quarterly Practice Meeting has changed from Thursday, July 31 to **Tuesday, July 29, 2025**. The location will still be Northern Nevada Sparks Medical Building, Suite 201 and the meet and greet begins at 5 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join us at our next Practice Meeting!

2025 Quarterly Practice Meeting Dates

SOUTHERN NEVADA

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025

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



NORTHERN NEVADA

Tuesday, July 29, 2025 (NOTE NEW DATE!!)

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

Northern Nevada Practice Meetings will be held at Northern Nevada Sparks Medical Building, Suite 201. Meet & Greet begins at 5 pm; Meeting begins at 5:30.

SILVER STATE ACO Compliance Line

702-751-0834

Available for secure reporting of any suspected compliance issues, without fear of retribution.

