



Powered by The Valley Health System and Kindred Hospitals



March 2025

Newsletter

Volume 117

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#VegasStrong

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Northwest Specialty Hospital in Reno NOW OPEN – Offering Acute Rehab & Adult Behavioral Health Services



Northern Nevada Health System announced the opening of Northwest Specialty Hospital (NWSH), An Extension of Northern Nevada Medical Center, to patients in need of acute rehabilitation and adult behavioral health services. The facility in northwest Reno is located at 6225 Sharlands Avenue, Reno NV 89523.

For our ACO partners looking to make a referral to either department, submit a fax order to the number(s) listed below and a member of the NWSH team will contact you directly after receiving your referral.

- Adult Behavioral Health – submit referral via fax to 775-683-4211
- Geropsych Behavioral Health – submit referral via fax to 775-683-4220
- Acute Rehabilitation – submit referral via phone at 775-683-4237 or 775-683-4236

NOTE:

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

Northern Nevada:
Thursday, May 1, 2025

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More about Northwest Specialty Hospital

Acute rehabilitation offers a continuum of care designed to rebuild a patient's strength, endurance and achieve recovery following a debilitating injury, illness, or medical condition. The department will provide specialized programs for patients suffering from stroke, brain injury, major trauma, medical deconditioning and other disabling conditions, neurological conditions, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury and amputation. The department will include a full-scale therapy gym, transitional care apartment, which will allow patients to prepare for day-to-day functions prior to discharge, access to a multispecialty team, and programs for family members to engage in the patient's care.

Adult Behavioral Health is designed to provide a secure, comfortable space for patients requiring inpatient care for mental health disorders such as anxiety and agitation, bipolar disorder, major depression, psychosis, schizophrenia, substance use disorder and suicidal ideation. The department is led by a physician medical director and a multispecialty care team including physicians, hospitalists, APRN's, nurses, CNA's and licensed social workers. In addition, the department will have a dedicated wing for adults ages 55 and older who are being treated for dementia, Alzheimer's, and related memory-associated conditions.

To learn more about our network of care and locations in Reno and Sparks, click this link: **[Welcome to Northern Nevada Health System | Reno, Nevada.](#)**

Breast Cancer Screenings



Breast cancer is a significant health concern for women, being the **second most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women in the United States.** Regular screenings play a crucial role in early detection and treatment. According to the **American Cancer Society**, about 1 in 8 women (roughly 13%) will develop invasive breast cancer in their lifetime. In 2023 alone, almost 300,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed in U.S. women, along with about 56,000 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer.

To promote early detection, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has established guidelines requiring healthcare providers to

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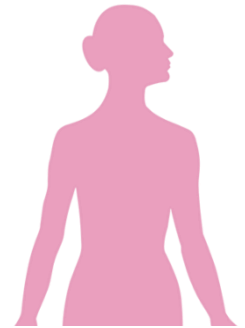
ensure their patients receive timely mammograms. Meeting this requirement is essential not only for patient care but also for maintaining compliance with quality programs.

Starting this year, Silver State ACO will be required to report this measure to CMS on behalf of their participating practices via a Medicare **Clinical Quality Measure (CQM)**, ensuring accountability and improved outcomes. Medicare CQMs are electronic-based measures that are populated and extracted directly from your Electronic Health Record (EHR) system via a QRDA Category 1 file.

The Medicare (CQM) for **Breast Cancer Screening** applies to women between the ages of 40 and 74. It requires patients in this age group to have had a mammogram within the current measurement period (2025) or the 15 months prior. Each EHR system has its own method of documenting this measure. Compliance can be achieved through integration with an imaging center or by entering the information into a *designated field*. We strongly recommend that practices reach out to their EHR company liaison to fully understand the necessary workflows.

How to Meet the Requirement

- *Find Out Who Needs a Mammogram:* Use your electronic health records (EHR) system to generate a list of female patients who have not had a mammogram in the last two years.
- *Educate and Encourage:* Some patients may avoid screenings due to fear or do not realize how important they are. Take the time to explain the benefits of early detection and address any concerns they may have.
- *Set Up Reminder Systems:* Send automated phone, text, portal, or email reminders to notify patients when they are due for a mammogram. During office visits, staff should also remind patients about the screening.
- *Keep Track of Screenings:* Make sure all completed mammograms are documented in the patient's record and follow up with patients who are overdue.



Following Medicare's **Breast Cancer Screening** guidelines is not just about meeting a requirement - it's about making sure patients get the care they need. The National Cancer Institute study shows regular mammograms reduce breast cancer deaths by 40%. Encouraging

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regular screenings can help more women get the care they need, improve health outcomes, and can also boost your practice's quality score and reimbursement potential.

If you have any questions or need further assistance with this measure, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Quality Coordinators.

SILVER STATE ACO WEBSITE REMODEL

Did you know that Silver State ACO maintains a website? It includes information about the ACO's performance results (of which SSACO is extremely proud, having earned Shared Savings for nine consecutive years), listings of Silver State ACO Participants, Preferred Providers and staff.

You can also find details for the SSACO SNF 3-day Rule Waiver, all back issues of the newsletter, and extensive educational information. The website, which can be found at www.SilverStateAco.com.

SECURITY REMINDERS

As the weather warms and we dust off our outdoor furniture, clean our closets and break out the spring and summer wardrobes and toys, it's a great time to do the same in our practices. It's time to review, refresh and renew security protocols and directives.

Here are some suggestions:

- CMS does not allow medical practices to employ anyone who is listed as "excluded" on the OIG's list. That includes those who may not have appeared on the list when you first employed them. Keeping in mind that some employees have part time jobs elsewhere, and that there may be a lag to OIG's adding names to the list, new employees may have slipped "through the cracks." Now is a good time to check the list for the names of all your employees. Here's the link: <https://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov>.
- Review all systems and staff access. Have all the employees who left this year had their login access deactivated to all systems? Best practice is to keep a log for each system. When employees are hired or leave, each log should be updated. Now is a great time to do an overall review.
- Have security updates been uploaded for each system? When did you last discuss protocols with your IT provider?
- Create a calendar of educational forums or events. Education, education, education. Important things bear repeating.



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

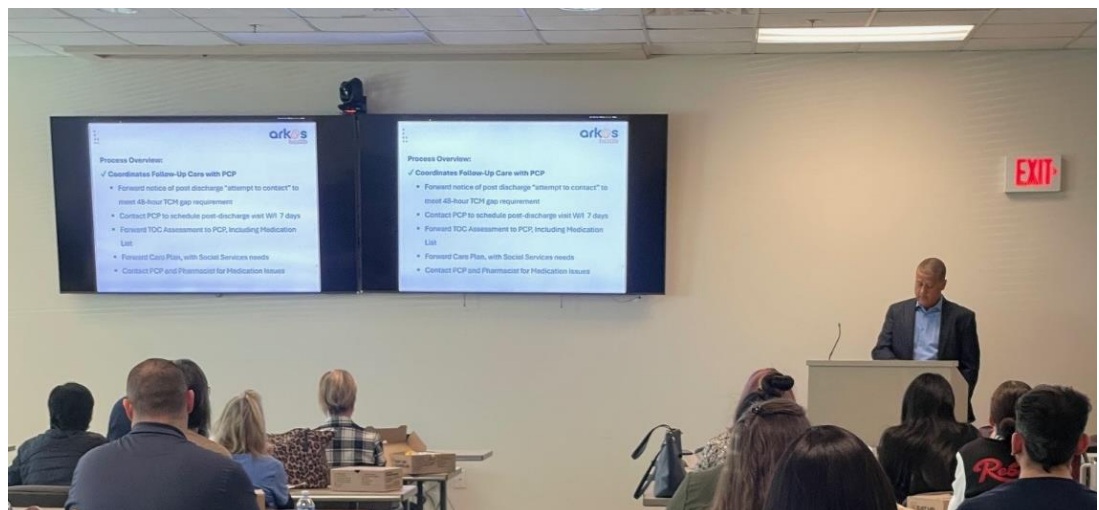
PRACTICE MEETINGS

Practice meetings were held on February 11th and 13th for Southern Nevada and Northern Nevada practices, respectively. Representatives of Silver State ACO participant groups joined as they learned about quality measures and were introduced to the new participant groups of 2025. The new participating groups were eager to learn more about Silver State ACO.

Pictured below is Quality Care Coordinator, Sarah Whitney, presenting on 2025 Promoting Interoperability at the Southern Nevada Practice Meeting.



Pictured below is Greg Kinzler with Arkos health presenting on what they can offer to our participating groups at the Southern Nevada Practice Meeting.



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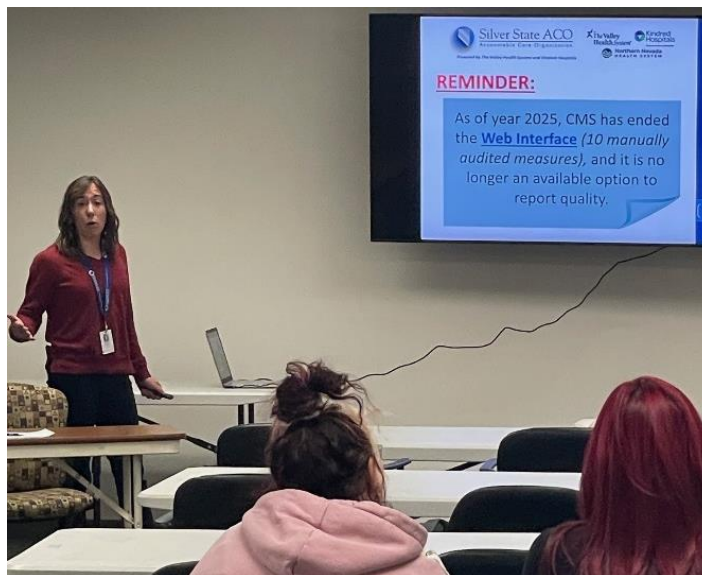
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Pictured right are our Southern Nevada Practice Meeting gift card winners from left to right: Maryam Kaveh (Frontline), Amber Damitz (UMC), Pilar Apostalo (Health First), and Julie Burchette (DCOM).



Pictured below, at the Northern Nevada Practice Meeting, Silver State ACO Quality Care Coordinator, Dineen Caseday presenting important CMS reminders.



Pictured below are our Northern Nevada Practice Meeting gift card winners and our Northern Nevada Quality Care Coordinators from left to right: Chris George (NNMC), Savannah Rittenhouse (SSACO), Amanda Gongaware (Reno Family Physicians), Molly Goldeer (B Bottenberg), Richelle Heater (SSACO), and Dineen Caseday (SSACO).



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Join us at our next Practice Meeting!

2025 Quarterly Practice Meeting Dates

SOUTHERN NEVADA

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

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

Thursday, May 1, 2025 (at Carson Tahoe Medical Center)

Thursday, July 31, 2025

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

Northern Nevada Practice Meetings will be held at Northern Nevada Sparks Medical Building, Suite 201. **(Unless otherwise noted)**
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.



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