

April 2021



Who we are...

The Innovative Health Alliance of New York, LLC. (IHANY) is a collaboration among doctors, health systems and health care providers in New York's Capital Region aimed at improving the health of the communities we serve by working together in new, more coordinated ways. In today's evolving health care landscape, clinical integration is essential to achieving better health for the community, better care for individuals and lower costs of health care.

This Month's Priorities

1. **Schedule your patients for their Annual Wellness Visits (AWV):** Utilizing the reports from February you will be able to identify who is due for their AWV. For 2021 CMS has determined that you can utilize telehealth to do an AWV. **REMINDER:** You can also do **advance care planning (ACP)** via telehealth and/or during an AWV. See the Population Health News section later in this notice for 2021 Medicare telehealth code updates.
2. **GPRO Reporting is over but 2021 Education has begun:** Starting this month in preparation for next year's GPRO reporting we will begin holding monthly educational sessions to discuss best practices, lessons learned and the "why" around the Quality Measures for the Shared Savings Program. During these educational series we will also discuss how some of the measures we work on for Medicare will end up expanding to all patients in 2022. You will find the meeting information for our first session under the Education section later in this notice. You can also expect a meeting invite from Brian following this notice.
3. **Reports: Check your Sharefile, your Q121 Reports (AWV and Attribution reports) were sent Friday February 12th:** Please ensure that you have disseminated these reports to the appropriate colleagues so they may take action on the updated data (i.e.. providers, care coordinators, front end staff). If you have any questions please let us know.

Spotlight

IHANY Network Specialty Practice: Ophthalmology

As a Clinically Integrated Network, continuing to promote in-network referrals will allow for our system to grow and manage costs.

With that in mind, we will have feature spotlights on IHANY partners and affiliates within this newsletter to ensure we keep you informed of our diverse resources.

This month we would like to highlight our two ophthalmology practices, Perlmutter Eye Center and Kennedy Ophthalmology Associates

Perlmutter Eye Center is an ophthalmology practice providing customized cataract surgery, medical, laser and surgical glaucoma care, and laser and injections for management of retinal disease. The practice also sees a broad range of routine and urgent care for new and established patients, including eyelid disease, dry eyes, and corneal disease. Office locations include 35 Hackett Blvd Suite 236 in Albany and 1789 US 9 in Clifton Park.

The practice has been caring for Capital Region patients for over 40 years. Founded by Dr. Lawrence Perlmutter, who serves as the chairman of the ophthalmology department at St Peter's Hospital, the practice is known for providing both personal and exceptional medical and surgical care. Over five years ago, Dr. David Perlmutter returned to the area, after training at the internationally famous Wills Eye Hospital, to join his father in practice and expand the specialty services offered. Dr. Jeffrey Zonderman more recently joined Perlmutter and Eye Center after the practice opened its Clifton Park Location.

Perlmutter Eye Center is preferred practice in the St Peter's Health/IHANY Network accepting new patients and offering same day appointments. Almost all insurances are accepted. Physician offices can refer patients via email at referrals@perleye.com, fax at **518-449-7210**, or by phone at **518-472-9111** (for fast service, select option 0).

Kennedy Ophthalmology Associates is an ophthalmic specialty practice located at 1675 Providence Avenue in Schenectady, near Ellis Hospital. The practice was founded over 50 years ago, by John Kennedy Sr, MD, who served as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Ellis Hospital for many years.

Today patients are treated by Robert Kennedy, MD FACS and Glenn Thompson, MD FACS. Dr. Kennedy completed his sub-specialty retina fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins University. He treats retinal disease including macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy in addition to general ophthalmic conditions including glaucoma, cataracts and vision exams. Dr. Thompson completed his sub-specialty cornea fellowship training at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He performs corneal transplants in addition to cataract surgery, and treating medical ophthalmic conditions including glaucoma.

Both Drs. Kennedy and Thompson have been involved in the local medical community each having served as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Ellis Hospital. Dr. Thompson is currently serving as president of the Schenectady County Medical Society, and Dr. Kennedy is a past-president.

Appointments for new patients can be made by calling **518-377-3410**. Most insurances are accepted.

If you are an IHANY Network Specialty practice and would like your location featured in a future IHANY Monthly, please email [Brian Pinga](mailto:Brian.Pinga).

Contract Alert!

April 5 is the Last Day to Opt-Out of the New BSNENY APM Contract

As a reminder, **April 5** is the last day to opt-out of IHANY's new 3-year alternative payment model contract with BlueShield of Northeastern New York. Under this agreement, if we as a network can reduce cost, BSNENY will share 50% of the savings with us. If we improve quality, we have the opportunity to earn up an additional 15% of the savings.

Please note: practices that participate in this agreement will be suspended from BSNENY's annual Quality Incentive Programs: Rewarding Quality Patient Care 'Pay for Performance' (P4P).

If your practice would like to participate in this agreement, there's nothing to do. If your practice does not want to participate, please return the Opt-Out form that was emailed on 3/5/21 and on 3/22/21 to IHANYNetworkMgmt@sphp.com by April 5, 2020.

Any questions, please contact Jackie George, 518-257-0659 or jacqueline.george@sphp.com

Education

GPRO 2021 Quality Measure Education Series 1:

DM: Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (>9%)

HTN: Controlling High Blood Pressure

Prev 12: Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan

Tuesday April 27nd 12:00pm-1:00pm

Click [here](#) for the meeting link to save.

Brian will be sending a meeting invite to all who receive this notice.

Over the next few months Brian Pinga, Director of Quality Improvement & Practice Operations, will be holding educational sessions to prepare IHANY participants for the next GPRO reporting period. GPRO is a process that takes planning and education throughout the year. Please join us to review measures specifications, best practices and lessons learned from our 2020 GPRO reporting period.

CE Opportunity! Clinical Condition Documentation (CCD) A Quality Coding Accuracy Program

Click [here](#) to access the course

For details on CE credits contact Eileen Jones @ jonesei@trinity-health.org

Dr. Amy Frankowski is a physician executive consultant for Trinity Health. She previously served as Chief Medical Officer of the clinically integrated networks at Bon Secours Mercy Health. She is well versed in population health management, clinically integrated networks, and accountable care organizations. She will be speaking on risk adjustment for providers.

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss how achieving complete and accurate Clinical Condition Documentation (CCD) requires reflecting the patient's clinical status as accurately as possible.
2. Discuss how medical record documentation must support CCD coding for purposes of compliance and clinical accuracy.
3. Discuss the need to consider risk adjustment at all appropriate visits for the purpose of annually re-validating relevant diagnoses.

SPHP Medical Grand Rounds – Save the April Dates

St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Grand Rounds is held virtually at 8 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

CME credits are available for the live events, and recordings will be posted 30 days after the event.

Upcoming Presentations

- April 7, 2021, 8 a.m. – **Robotic Pancreatic Surgery and MICOE**, Dr. Jason Heckman
<https://trinity-health.webex.com/trinity-health/j.php?MTID=m74588af62256b198ca8f74b0e217e692>
- April 21, 2021, 8 a.m. – **Robotic Surgeries in Pelvic Health**, Dr. Maria Voznesensky
<https://trinity-health.webex.com/trinity-health/j.php?MTID=m885e8ea8865e3e5ab90befec0c7dab24>

For more information, visit our website:

<https://www.sphp.com/colleagues/continuing-medical-education>

For questions, interested presenters, and feedback, contact:

- Beth Wyman, Provider Engagement Consultant,
elizabeth.wyman@sphp.com
- Kathy Kindness, Medical Librarian, kathy.kindness@sphp.com

CMS Billing Update

**Initial Preventive Physical Examinations and
Annual Wellness Visits
Q&A Document and Webinar Recording Available**

The recording and transcription of the webinar supporting *CBR202102: Initial Preventive Physical Examinations and Annual Wellness Visits* is now available, along with the handout and Q&A document, on the **CBR website**.

- Click [here](#) to access the **CBR202102** review

Medicare Payment for COVID-19 Vaccine

Effective for COVID-19 vaccines administered on or after March 15, 2021, the national average payment rate for physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, and many other immunizers will be \$40 to administer each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This represents an increase from approximately \$28 to \$40 for the administration of single-dose vaccines and an increase from approximately \$45 to \$80 for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines requiring two doses. The exact payment rate for administration of each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine will depend on the type of entity that furnishes the service and will be geographically adjusted based on where the service is furnished.

Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccines:

As a condition of receiving free COVID-19 vaccines from the federal government, vaccine providers are prohibited from charging patients any amount for administration of the vaccine. To ensure broad and consistent coverage across programs and payers, the toolkits have specific information for several programs, including:

Medicare: Beneficiaries with Medicare pay nothing for COVID-19 vaccines and there is no applicable copayment, coinsurance, or deductible.

Medicare Advantage (MA): For calendar years 2020 and 2021, Medicare will pay providers directly for the COVID-19 vaccine (if they do not receive it for free) and its administration for beneficiaries enrolled in MA plans. MA plans are not responsible for paying providers to administer the vaccine to MA enrollees during this time. Like beneficiaries in Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage enrollees also pay no cost-sharing for COVID-19 vaccines.

Medicaid: State Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program agencies must provide vaccine administration with no cost sharing for nearly all beneficiaries during the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and at least one year after it ends. Through the American Rescue Plan Act signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, the COVID vaccine administration will be fully federally funded. The law also provides an expansion of individuals eligible for vaccine administration coverage. There will be more information provided in upcoming updates to the [Medicaid toolkit](#).

Private Plans: CMS, along with the Departments of Labor and Treasury, is requiring that most private health plans and issuers cover the COVID-19 vaccine and its administration, both in-network and out-of-network, with no cost sharing during the PHE. Current regulations provide that out-of-network rates must be reasonable, as compared to prevailing market rates, and reference the Medicare reimbursement rates as a potential guideline for insurance companies. In light of CMS's increased Medicare payment rates, CMS will expect commercial carriers to continue to ensure that their rates are reasonable in comparison to prevailing market rates.

Uninsured: For individuals who are uninsured, providers may submit claims for reimbursement for administering the COVID-19 vaccine to individuals without insurance through the Provider Relief Fund, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

More Information:

- [Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment](#) webpage: Payment for COVID-19 vaccine administration, including a list of billing codes, payment allowances, and effective dates
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support](#) webpage: How the COVID-19 vaccine is provided at 100% no cost to recipients
- [HRSA COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured](#) webpage.

Population Health News

Medicare and Telehealth 2021

Telehealth has become a very useful tool to keep connected with our patients during the pandemic. To find what services are covered under telehealth for 2021 click [here](#) for the link from CMS.

Some important services to note that can be done via Telehealth:

- Advance Care Planning
- The Medicare AWW codes (HCPCS codes G0438 and G0439) are on the list of approved Medicare telemedicine services. **CMS states that self-reported vitals** may be used when a beneficiary is at home and has access to the types of equipment they would need to self-report vitals. The visit must also meet all other requirements.

We are here to help you.

Your IHANY Practice Support Team

Ashley Zapp, Manager of Care Coordination

Brian M. Pinga, Director of Quality Improvement & Practice Operations

Eileen M. Jones, Director of Clinical Condition Documentation

James Renner, Sr. Project Management Specialist

Learn more about IHANY

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