

May 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):** 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. **2020 Shared Savings Program Reporting is over but 2021 Education has begun:** In preparation for next year's GPRO/Promoting Interoperability (PI) 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 and resources for Promoting Interoperability (PI). CMS released their **2021 Promoting Interoperability Guide**, please review and let us know if you have any questions. You will also find the meeting information for our second session under the Education section later in this notice. You can expect a meeting invite from Brian following this notice. Each session will be recorded for future reference.
3. **Reports:** We will be sending out Population Health Analytic Reports on a monthly basis. With this new process we are targeting the first Wednesday of every month. 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:

Otolaryngology/ENT

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 otolaryngology group, **Albany ENT & Allergy services**.

Albany ENT and Allergy Services (AENT) is the Capital Region's preeminent Otolaryngology specialty practice and the *only one in the IHANY network*. Its nine board certified physicians serve the ear, nose, throat, allergy, sinus, hearing, balance and sleep disorder needs of both adult and pediatric patients, assisted by an equal number of specially trained physician assistants and a warm, knowledgeable staff that makes every patient's visit a pleasant and positive experience.

Founded in 1978, AENT remains at the cutting edge of medical innovation and technology and currently offers community residents two convenient office locations.: 123 Everett Rd Albany, and 1785 Route 9 in Clifton Park. AENT's Albany office also houses a surgical center and a walk in clinic that does not require an appointment operating M-F from 8:30 am- 3:30 pm.

AENT has built its reputation on the satisfaction of its many patients. It accepts all major insurances and is currently accepting new adult and pediatric patients. We are eager to hear from our fellow physicians about how we may be able to treat your patients. Appointments can be made online at albanyentandallergy.com or by calling 518-701-2085. Please reach out to Jennifer Brandt at jbrandt@albanyentandallergyservices.com or **518-512-8419** for questions about direct access to our services.

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).

Education

GPRO 2021 Quality Measure Education Series Volume 2:

MH1: Depression Remission at 12 months

**Prev 7: Preventive Care and Screening: Influenza
Immunization**

**Prev 13: Statin Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of
Cardiovascular Disease**

Tuesday May 25th 12:00pm-1:00pm

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

Brian has sent 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.

Did you miss Volume 1? Here is a link to the recording: <https://trinity-health.webex.com/webappng/sites/trinity-health/recording/708eafeaaa464ecd97df3f17e9b69e61/playback>

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 May 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. **These sessions are open to all IHANY providers.**

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

Thoracic Surgery Updates

Date/Time: May 5, 2021 @ 8:00 AM

Presenter: Dr. Elizabeth Marshall

Wounds: A Team Sport

Date/Time: May 19, 2021 @ 8:00 AM

Presenter: Drs. Ozsvath and Altwerger

Links will be posted on the website the day of the presentation.

<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 COVID Vaccine Update

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources: Reaching Vulnerable Populations

Many groups such as *older adults* and *people with disabilities* may have substantial challenges accessing COVID-19 vaccination services and warrant specific considerations to support equitable vaccine access. The CDC has provided guidance, tools and toolkits and other COVID-19 vaccine resources to support vulnerable populations who are a higher risk, to help them make decisions, protect their health, and communicate with their communities.

Toolkit for People with Disabilities - The CDC has created a ***toolkit*** to help people with disabilities and those who serve or care for them make decisions, protect their health, and communicate with their communities. This toolkit has several resources including:

- ***Guidance for Vaccinating Older Adults and People with Disabilities: Ensuring Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Access*** - This document summarizes what jurisdictions should consider when planning to vaccinate older adults and people with disabilities living in the community.
- ***Vaccine Considerations for People with Disabilities*** - This webpage provides information for people with disabilities or conditions and for their care providers.
- ***Guidance for Direct Service Providers for People with Disabilities*** – This webpage provides information for direct service providers who provide a wide variety of home and community-based, health-related services that support people with disabilities.

Vaccinating Homebound Persons With COVID-19 Vaccine - COVID-19 vaccination of homebound persons presents unique challenges to ensure safe and effective vaccination, This webpage provides guidance on management of vaccines and vaccination for persons vaccinated at home or in small group settings.

Toolkit for People Experiencing Homelessness – This webpage provides guidance and tools to help homeless service providers make decisions and protect and communicate with staff and with people who are experiencing homelessness.

COVID-19 vaccines for patients in dialysis clinics - The federal government is partnering with dialysis organizations, local and state jurisdictions to increase access to ***COVID-19 vaccines*** for patients and healthcare personnel in outpatient dialysis clinics. This webpage provides information for dialysis partners and public health jurisdictions to ensure equitable and effective access to COVID-19 vaccines and increase availability of COVID-19 vaccines for patients in dialysis clinics.

With information coming from many different sources, CMS has up-to-date resources and materials to help you share important and relevant information on the COVID-19 vaccine with the people that you serve. You can find these and more resources on the ***COVID-19 Partner Resources Page*** and the ***HHS COVID Education Campaign page***.

For more information, visit the [CMS COVID-19 Policies and Guidance page](#).

Population Health News

2021 Could be a Busy Year for Telehealth Adoption and Sustainability

As the new year begins and the nation looks to tackle COVID-19 and move on, telehealth will be front and center in a lot of conversations from the halls of Congress to the patient's home.

Read the article from mHealthintelligence [here](#).

Reminder: 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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5/3/2021

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