



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. **Annual Wellness Visits (AWV): Our most recent performance indicates that as a CIN we are at 17% AWV (Claims paid through the end of May 2021). For 2021 we need to exceed 50%.** To help move the dial and address patient education on AWV the IHANY team has developed a Medicare AWV Patient Education Document you can use. Click the image to the right. Brian will be sending out a follow up email with more details. **REMINDER:** 2021 CMS has determined that you can utilize telehealth to do an AWV. 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 codes.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT Medicare Annual Wellness Visits

Did you know that Medicare will provide an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) once a year at no cost to you? Below is some information about this benefit and how it differs from a "yearly exam" or a "problem visit."

What is an AWV?
The Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is a yearly appointment with your care provider to update your health records and ensure you are up-to-date on receiving preventive healthcare services (coverings and vaccinations).

Who is Eligible?
All Medicare Part B members who have not had a Medicare AWV or "Welcome to Medicare" visit in the past 12 months.

What does the AWV cost?
Patients pay nothing out-of-pocket for this visit. However, during your visit if you require further tests or screenings other than those listed below, a co-payment or deductible expense may occur.

What is covered as part of the AWV?

- Update of your age, race, address, and contact information
- Update of your medical and family history
- Update of your list of current care providers
- Measurement of blood pressure, height, and weight
- Screen for memory changes
- Review of movement ability and risk of falling
- Written preventive screening plan for the next 5 to 10 years
- Advanced Care (end-of-life) Planning
- Review of current medications

Mission Statement
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.

Logos for St. Peter's Health Services, Ellis, St. Mary's Healthcare, and others are visible at the bottom.

2. **CMS Reporting, Promoting Interoperability (PI):** CMS released their **2021 Promoting Interoperability Guide**, please review and let us know if you have any questions. **Remember, each TIN in IHANY will need to report at least a 90 consecutive day period of data for PI directly to CMS (If your TIN doesn't meet or apply for an exception from reporting PI).** October 3, 2021 will start the last 90 day period of the performance year. Please run your EMR PI performance report this month so we can review and make corrections before **October 3rd**. Please contact **Brian** or **James** with any questions. See our education section for a recording of our PI webinar from August.

- GPRO preparation:** Since April we have been providing live and recorded education in preparation for our annual GPRO audit which will begin in January. Before January we need to prepare and make sure that each practice has a designated resource to assist in the data abstraction and gap closure. We will hold a review of the material this fall and begin convene our GPRO workgroup in preparation of the abstraction. In the meantime the education is listed in our education section below.

Contract Update



MediGold & IHANY Affiliation

MediGold and IHANY are collaborating to bring exceptional Medicare Advantage plans to the Albany region beginning January 1, 2022.

Q: Who is MediGold?

A: MediGold is a Medicare Advantage plan offering seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries affordable health and drug coverage. For more than two decades, MediGold has been serving thousands of members in communities like yours. Members enjoy excellent customer service, total transparency in costs and billing and full support getting needed care. MediGold is the Medicare Advantage plan you can trust. MediGold is founded by doctors, and loved by members.

Q: Why is MediGold partnering with IHANY?

A: An affiliation between MediGold and IHANY to launch a Medicare Advantage health plan in Albany is part of MediGold's strategic growth plan to expand in partnership with select Trinity Health Regional Health Ministries. For IHANY, this affiliation is part of their ongoing efforts of continuously improving the health of its community, particularly the senior community. Creating this additional option for Medicare beneficiaries will improve beneficiary access to affordable, high-quality health care with coverage that fits their exact needs and preferences.

Q: What makes a MediGold affiliation different from other IHANY payers?

A: Launching a new health plan for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries is another aspect in a continuum of ongoing efforts to keep improving the health of those in the IHANY footprint. Coupled with our shared relationship to Trinity Health, MediGold offers an impressive value proposition.

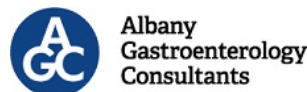
MediGold's partnership with IHANY is based on a mutual goal of providing quality care and easy access to health services without the runaround members may get from the big insurance companies. MediGold is a not-for-profit organization and chooses to only work with local healthcare professionals that meet our high standards for care and share our belief that patient well-being comes before anything else.

Please look for WebEx invites to join MediGold in an additional Q&A educational webinar at one of the below dates.

Tuesday, September 21 at 7 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Wednesday, September 22 at 7 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Specialty Spotlight

IHANY Network Specialty Practices: Gastroenterology (GI)



As a Clinically Integrated Network, continuing to promote in-network referrals will allow for IHANY to provide better health to the populations we serve.

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 gastroenterology practice, Albany Gastroenterology Consultants.

With 22 physicians and 15 advanced practitioners, Albany Gastroenterology Consultants is the leading digestive specialty medical group in the Greater Capital Region. AGC welcomes patients at two convenient locations, in Albany and Clifton Park. You can refer new patients for routine colonoscopies and any other digestive health issues directly at <https://albanygi.com/patient-referral>.

AGC's Albany location at 1375 Washington Avenue features an Endoscopy Center, an Infusion Center and professional offices. AGC performs colonoscopies both at the surgical center at their Albany location and at partner hospitals throughout the region. Their Clifton Park office at 1785 Route 9 is part of a brand-new multi-specialty patient experience and features medical offices, lab and an on-site pharmacy.

This year, to counter the dramatic and dangerous 86% decrease in colorectal cancer screenings due to the pandemic, AGC is stepping up their commitment to generating public awareness of the importance of this life-saving procedure. As you know, screenings can detect cancers early and lead to longer and healthier lives. The newest guidelines by the American Cancer Society recommend these screening now begin at age 45. AGC encourages you and all of our health partners at IHANY to remind patients to make their appointments.

For more information and to learn about AGC's full range of services visit at albanygi.com.

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



2021 IHANY GPRO Education Series

Brian Pinga CPHQ, CPhT
Director of Quality Improvement &
Practice Operations

Did you miss the webinars? Here are links to the recordings:

[Volume 1](#)

[Volume 2](#)

[Volume 3](#)

The slides of all 3 volumes have been consolidated into one slide deck for your convenience. Click the image to the right of the header of this section to access a PDF copy. *Please note: CMS has updated their proposal for eCQM reporting for 2022 (more details in the CMS Updates section below). If you have any questions please reach out to [Brian Pinga](#).*

IHANY/IPRO Collaborative Webinar QPP Performance Year 2021: Promoting Interoperability (PI) Performance Category

Did you miss the webinar? Here is the link to the recordings: Click [here](#)
Click [here](#) to access the slides for the presentation.

The Promoting Interoperability performance category promotes patient engagement and electronic exchange of information using certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT). This webinar will help your practice/organization understand what is required for the Promoting Interoperability performance categories and how to submit data for the 2021 QPP Performance Year as part of a MIPS APM (ACO). **As a member of IHANY all participant TINs must report 90 consecutive days of 2021 Promoting Interoperability data (unless your TIN is excluded according to CMS rules) directly to CMS during the submission period (January 2022-March 2022).**

SPHP Medical Grand Rounds – Save the September Dates

St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Grand Rounds is held virtually at 8am on Wednesdays. CME credits are available for the live events and recordings will be posted 30 days after the event. **These sessions are open to all IHANY providers.**

Details available on the website: <https://www.sphp.com/colleagues/continuing-medical-education>

Upcoming Presentations

9/1/21 - Diversity: Pronouns and Behaviors

Presented by Taryn Guy, Regional Director of Diversity and Inclusion for Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic (DE, NJ, and PA), St. Joseph's Health in Syracuse NY, and St. Peter's Health Partners in Albany, NY.

9/8/21 - Landscape of Structural Heart Interventions

Presented by Dr. Nish Patel, Interventional Cardiologist and Structural Heart Interventionist, Albany Associates of Cardiology

9/15/21 – Updates on Atrial Fibrillation

Presented by Dr. Alfonso Prieto, Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist, Albany Associates of Cardiology

9/22/21 – Vasculitis, Glomerulonephritis, and Plasmapheresis: The Latest and Most Innovative Approaches

Presented by Dr. Frank Cortazar, Director of the New York Nephrology Vasculitis and Glomerular Center, Capital District Renal Physicians

9/28/21 – Y90 Treatments

Presented by Dr. Smbat Amirbekian, Interventional Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology, St. Peter's Health Partners

Meeting Info

Microsoft Teams Meeting - [Click here to join the meeting](#)

For questions, contact:

Beth Wyman, Provider Engagement Consultant, elizabeth.wyman@sphp.com

Kathy Kindness, Medical Librarian, kathy.kindness@sphp.com

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

IPRO QIN-QIO Coalition Interactive Training: Pathways to Safer Opioid Use

CME and CPE credits available

This interactive training promotes the appropriate, safe, and effective use of opioids to manage chronic pain.

This training is based on the opioid-related recommendations in the [National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention \(ADE Action Plan\)](#) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP).

This training is intended for:

- physicians
- nurses
- pharmacists
- health educators
- students

Trainees will learn how to:

- Apply health literacy strategies
- Identify risk factors and opioid medication interactions
- Use a multidisciplinary, team-based approach for treating patients with chronic pain

Click [here](#) to access the training.

Updates from Hixny

Contributing Data to Hixny Meets 2021 MIPS Promoting Interoperability Requirements

By providing proper documentation, facilities that contribute data to Hixny are automatically qualified to receive credit for the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Bi-Directional Exchange requirement of CMS' Quality Payment Program: Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

The documentation required to receive credit is a combination of information from your EHR system, Hixny's website and your EHR vendor and includes:

- Dated report or screenshot documenting successful receipt and transmission of patient data by a MIPS eligible clinician (at the NPI level) *and/or*
- Documentation from Hixny's website (***found here***) confirming data contribution and information about the breadth of organizations in our health information exchange network participants *and/or*
- Letter, email or other documentation from your CEHRT vendor confirming a connection between your EHR and Hixny, including the date of onboarding and a description of the connection type.

You can find the criteria for all 2021 MIPS Data Validation: Promoting Interoperability Performance categories ***here***.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your account manager, RuthAnn Craven at rcraven@hixny.org.

Updates from CMS

Coverage to Care & Connected Care

Help your patients understand their health coverage, and use it to get back on track with regular, primary care appointments. Find tools and resources for you and your patients:

- ***Coverage to Care*** helps patients understand their health coverage and connect to primary care and preventive services that are right for them.
- ***Connected Care*** focuses on patients who are eligible for chronic care management services.

From CMS MLN Network email 8/5/21

Immunization: Medicare Covers Vaccines

Medicare covers the following vaccines:

- COVID-19: ***See provider toolkit for enrollment, payment, coding, and billing***
- Influenza: ***See flu shot frequency, coverage, payment, coding, and billing***
- Pneumococcal: An initial shot and a different, second shot per ***pneumococcal vaccine recommendations***
- Hepatitis B: For ***certain patients at intermediate or high risk***

Many Medicare patients missed vaccines during the pandemic, encourage your patients to get back on track with routine vaccines:

- Help protect your patients against serious disease. Talk to your patients about vaccines they may have missed.
- Help high-risk patients learn about the benefits of vaccines.
- Your recommendation can make a difference. You're a valued and trusted source of health information.
- Even if your practice doesn't administer or stock certain vaccines, refer patients to other vaccine providers and follow up.

More Information:

- ***Preventive Services*** webpage
- ***CDC NIAM*** and ***Adult Vaccination Resources*** webpages

- [Office of Minority Health](#) webpage: Resources for minority and underserved patients
- [Vaccines.gov](#)
- [Part D Vaccines \(PDF\)](#) fact sheet
- Information for your patients on [COVID-19 vaccine](#), [flu shots](#), [pneumococcal shots](#), and [Hepatitis B shots](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines Additional Doses: Codes & Payment

The FDA amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for both the [Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) and the [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) to allow for an additional dose in certain immunocompromised people.

Effective August 12, 2021, CMS will pay to administer additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines consistent with the FDA EUAs, using [CPT code 0003A](#) for the Pfizer vaccine and [CPT code 0013A](#) for the Moderna vaccine. CMS will pay the same amount to administer this additional dose as they did for other doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (approximately \$40 each).

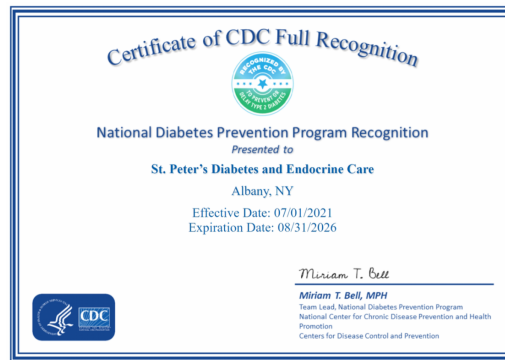
CMS will hold and then process all claims with these codes after they complete claims system updates (no later than August 27).

Learn more about Medicare COVID-19 vaccine:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Codes](#)
- [Payment](#)

Population Health News

St. Peter's Diabetes and Endocrine Care has received full CDC program recognition for their Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)



CDC recognition for The National Diabetes Prevention Program includes standards that programs must meet. As a fully recognized program, we have met the goals the program sets out to do which is helping participants who are at risk for Type 2 diabetes lose 5-7% of their body weight and get active for 150 minutes or more each week. In May 2021, CDC updated their standards to also include retention over the year long program. If retention levels are met, an organization will receive 5 years of being fully recognized. This means our program we provide is working to help change the lives of those we serve!

IHI: Population Health Lessons of the COVID-19 Pandemic

As a physician and population health expert with experience in government, public policy, and research, Dr. Kara Odom Walker, a new IHI board member, has had a *unique perspective* on COVID-19. In a new interview, she discusses what she hopes health and health care leaders learn now to ensure a more equitable response to future public health crises.

Highlights From AHRQ's Patient Safety Network

AHRQ's *Patient Safety Network (PSNet)* highlights journal articles, books and tools related to patient safety. Articles featured this week include:

- *Adverse events and hospital-acquired conditions associated with potential low-value care in Medicare beneficiaries*
- *A systematic review on pediatric medication errors by parents or caregivers at home*
- *Prevalence, nature, severity and preventability of adverse drug events in mental health settings: findings from the Medication related harm in mEntal health hospitals (MADE) study*
- *Applying human factors engineering to address the telemetry alarm problem in a large medical center*

Review additional new publications in PSNet's *current issue* or access recent *cases and commentaries* in AHRQ's WebM&M (Morbidity and Mortality Rounds on the Web).

IMPAQ Health News: Understanding How Dual Eligibles Experience Health Care

People eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, known as dual eligibles, often have significant health needs and low incomes. There has been little formal research to know how they navigate and experience the health care system. To better understand dual eligibles' experiences, IMPAQ Health researchers conducted an exploratory *study*, using principles of Human Centered Design. In a report, the researchers capture dual eligibles' views on their health care and the challenges they face, plus offer considerations for policy changes. This work was supported by Arnold Ventures. Click [here](#) for the report. [Read the Re](#)

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, Care Coordination

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

Eileen M. Jones, Director, Clinical Condition Documentation

James Renner, Manager, Population Health Analytics

Lisa Kelly-Armstrong, Director, Network Mgmt. & Operations.

You can find all of our past newsletters on our website, click [here](#).

Learn more about IHANY

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