

October 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. **Annual Wellness Visits (AWV):** Our most recent performance indicates that as a CIN we are at 20% AWV (Claims paid through the end of July 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. This document was distributed to Quality leads during September. If you would like copies, posters or have any other questions please reach out to **Brian** Pinga.



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.

3. **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.

MIPS 2022 Payment Adjustment Update

IHANY scored 100 out of a possible 100 on our 2020 Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) score. For achieving this high score, eligible IHANY physicians will receive an estimated additional **1.87**-percent increase in payments – essentially a bonus – as an “exceptional performance adjustment” from CMS. The payment adjustment will go into effect in 2022.

The high MIPS score and performance-based payment increase reflect the value of IHANY to participating health care professionals, health care organizations, payers, and – most importantly – to patients.

Contract Update



IHANY providers,

MediGold, a Medicare Advantage insurance plan, has contracted as an affiliated provider with IHANY to bring exceptional care and service to Medicare beneficiaries in the Albany region. MediGold is Trinity Health's own Medicare Advantage plan. Based in Ohio, MediGold insurance plans will be available later this year for coverage to begin January 1, 2022.

An affiliation with MediGold is part of IHANY's ongoing efforts to keep improving the health of the communities we serve. Creating this additional option for our Albany community members will improve their access to affordable, high-quality health care from IHANY providers and facilities.

The value of a provider-sponsored health plan, like MediGold, is that the provider sponsored model allows the health plan and the provider network to collaborate more effectively to deliver coordinated, quality care with aligned incentives. MediGold's network strategy is to contract with select providers, focusing on Clinically Integrated Networks (CINs) and those that are in alignment with providing the same level of high-quality care.

Click [here](#) to watch the video below to learn more about how strengthening the relationship between MediGold and your health ministry can benefit your patients, you as the provider, and Trinity Health.

If you have questions that arise, please feel free to email them to MediGoldNetworkManagement@medigold.com

Thank you.

Medigold Provider Orientation Webinars

In partnership with IHANY, MediGold (a new Medicare Advantage plan as of 1/1/2022) will be conducting three Provider Orientation webinars in October and November.

October 7, noon- 1:00p.

October 21, noon- 1:00p.

November 4, noon- 1:00p.

Since MediGold is new to the market, they would like to take this time introduce themselves and orient the practices to learn more about how they will operationally work together.

Highlights of the overview include:

- Claims billing
- Verifying eligibility
- Sign up for electronic remits and payments
- Prior-authorization Process
- Referral requirements
- Quality and risk (Gaps in care)
- Other tools available from MediGold for the providers

Please send an email to chris.brino@medigold.com if you have not received an invitation and would like to attend.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

CMS Prev 5: Breast Cancer Screening

Percentage of women 50 - 74 years of age who had a mammogram to screen for breast cancer in the 27 months prior to the end of the measurement period. Click the image to the right for full measure details. We have multiple locations within our IHANY network for our patients to get their screenings. We have developed a guide that you can distribute. Click [here](#). I'd like to also note that our **SPH Troy Breast Center is now open every Saturday 7:30am-3:30pm.**



IHANY Colleague Health Plan Contract Initiative: SPHP Fall Mammogram Days for Colleagues and Spouses

SPHP is hosting Fall Mammogram Days for colleagues and spouses, by appointment (prescription needed), in multiple locations. Assistance with

transportation, interpreter services, prescriptions, etc., is available. [\[link\]](#)

Melissa Zapotocki, Director of Community Health and Well-Being at St. Peter's Health Partners, shares her breast cancer journey. She was diagnosed at the age of 40 after attending a free mammogram screening at St. Peter's Breast Center.

[Watch Melissa's Story](#)

St. Mary's Healthcare Region

The Cancer Services Program of Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties will have a Women's Mammogram Screening Day at **St. Mary's Healthcare on Saturday, October 23rd from 9 - 11 am for women 40-64 who do not have health insurance. Pre-registration is required. We will have a provider who performs breast and pelvic exams and Pap tests, if needed.** The women will then have their mammogram, if needed. The Women's Imaging Department will provide a give-away for the women as well.

<https://www.smha.org/services/womens-imaging/>

IHANY Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Please be on the lookout for an invitation to the upcoming IHANY Virtual Town Hall Meeting,

Burnout: The Contagion & What We Can Do About It

When: Monday October 25, 2021 6pm-8pm

Learning Objectives:

- Burnout is due to chronic stress
- Personal resilience is not the solution
- Evidence shows system-based interventions can help reduce clinician stress
- Practice of medicine will ever be what it was before Covid-19 pandemic

Speaker:

- Tina Shah, MD, MPH. A national leader in the field of clinician well-being, Dr. Shah is focused on redesigning healthcare so clinicians can work at the top of their game. She is also a practicing critical care attending physician.

Who Should Attend:

- All IHANY participating physicians, advanced practitioners, care managers
- Health system and practice leadership and administrators

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and Policies of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) through the joint providership of Ellis Medicine and IHANY. Ellis Medicine is accredited by The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Ellis Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Specialty Spotlight

IHANY Network Specialty Practices: Palliative Care



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 Palliative Care.

What is Palliative Care Partners at Home?

Palliative Care Partners at Home is pleased to offer palliative care, an extra layer of support services to treat the symptoms and stress experienced by patients at any stage of a serious illness. The specialized medical care features a multidisciplinary approach focusing on the unique needs of each patient.

The goal of palliative care services is to improve the quality of life for both the patient and the family. Palliative care can be provided at any stage of illness, even when patients are actively seeking treatment. Palliative Care Partners at Home does not replace your physician but work closely in partnership to coordinate care. Patients who receive palliative care early in their illness have the opportunity to benefit the most.

The palliative care team will:

- Manage symptoms of a patient's disease and the side effects of treatment
- Let patients know what to anticipate with their illness
- Help patients match the treatment options to their goals
- Assist with advanced care planning
- Help to coordinate care
- Provide support to family and caregivers

Palliative Care Partners at Home's expert staff includes palliative care trained nurse practitioners who can help patients manage symptoms, and social workers who can help access a range of community services. A palliative care trained physician is also involved with oversight. Their program offers assistance with health care decisions and coordination with your other doctors. Our team is available 24/7.

Patients can benefit from palliative care even if you have a certified home health agency involved in your care.

Palliative Care Partners at Home's care team serves residents of Albany, Schenectady, Southern Saratoga and Rensselaer counties. They can provide support outside regularly scheduled home visits through telemedicine. Their teams can provide support if you are admitted to St. Peter's, Ellis or Samaritan hospitals.

Patients with chronic diseases such as heart failure, COPD, cancer, liver or kidney disease, or dementia are eligible for the program. Copayment may be associated with NP/MD visits per a patient's specific insurance plan.

For more information, please call 518-525-6561.

Palliative Care Partners at Home is affiliated with St. Peter's Health Partners (SPHP) and St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Associates (SPHPMA).

If you are an IHANY Network Specialty practice and would like your location featured in a future IHANY Monthly, please email [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 October 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

10/6/21: Management of Feeding Issues in Patients with Advanced Dementia

Presented by Dr. George J. Giokas, Palliative Care Partners Inpatient Consultation Service at Ellis Medicine

10/13/21: Advancing Spiritual Care Through Research

Presented by Darienne Gagne, Chaplain with Community Hospice

10/20/21: Driving Restrictions and Chronic Neurological Conditions

Presented by Dr. Bridget Patterson-Marshall, MD, St. Peter's General Neurology

10/27/21: Aneurysms and Leg Swelling: A Case Presentation

Presented by Dr. Kathleen Ozsvath, MD, St. Peter's Vascular Associates

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 (PI) 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

Cardiovascular Disease: Talk to your Patients about Screening

Medicare covers cardiovascular disease screening tests, and your patients pay nothing if you accept assignment. During National Cholesterol Education Month and World Heart Day, talk to your patients about cardiovascular disease, cholesterol, and stroke.

More Information:

- [Preventive Services](#) webpage
- [Million Hearts®](#) website
- [CDC Cholesterol](#) webpage
- [World Heart Day](#) website
- Information for your patients on [cardiovascular disease screenings](#)

taken from CMS MLN newsletter 9/23/2021

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](#)

Population Health News

St. Mary's Healthcare has received full CDC program recognition for their Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

St. Mary's Healthcare received Full Recognition from the CDC for their Diabetes Prevention Program in December 2020. This year long lifestyle change program focuses on helping individuals who are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes and provides them with the opportunity to learn how to make healthy food choices, increase physical activity, cope with stress and set individual goals. Program sessions include the CDC's approved curriculum along with hands on activities, such as, cooking demonstrations in St. Mary's Teaching Kitchen. For more information contact: [Melissa Kopf](#) MS, RD, CDN, Community Benefits Coordinator, St. Mary's Healthcare.

For the IHANY network we have two Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) administrators. One at St. Peter's, which is currently accepting new patients, and one at St. Mary's. St. Mary's has paused accepting new patients at this time but we will update the network when they resume.

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:

- [Healthcare personnel's working conditions in relation to risk behaviours for organism transmission: a mixed-methods study](#)
- [Improving medication reconciliation with comprehensive evaluation at a Veterans Affairs skilled-nursing facility](#)
- [Patient-safety incidents during COVID-19 health crisis in France: An exploratory sequential multi-method study in primary care](#)
- [Factors related to serious safety events in a children's hospital patient safety collaborative](#)
- [Thematic analysis of nurses' experiences with The Joint Commission's medication management titration standards](#)
- [Effect of a mobile app on prehospital medication errors during simulated pediatric resuscitation: a randomized clinical trial](#)

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: The Role of Community Health Workers

The health care workforce has been a crucial part of combatting COVID-19. As the pandemic continues and resources are stretched thin, community health workers can play a role in reaching out to community members and relieving some of the pressure on physicians. In light of the Labor Day holiday, here are two recent pieces developed by IMPAQ Health experts that touch on the health care workforce: an [issue brief](#) that explores the role of community health workers and a [blog](#) examining how community health workers can help alleviate physician burnout.

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
 Laura Wise, Healthcare Data Analyst
 Laura Graham, Quality Improvement Specialist
[Lisa Kelly-Armstrong](#), Director, Network Mgmt. & Operations.
 Lyndsey House, Post-Acute Coordinator

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

Learn more about IHANY

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