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March 2022



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

- Annual Wellness Visits (AWV):** Addressing Annual Wellness Visits for our Medicare (ACO and Advantage) populations is a year round effort. **Our target for CY 2022 is 50%.** The IHANY team has developed a Medicare AWW Patient Education Document you can use. Click the image to the right. If you would like copies, posters or have any other questions please reach out to [Brian Pinga](#).
- New CMS Shared Savings Program Posters and Medicare Beneficiary Information Notices Coming.** As you may recall, IHANY left the Medicare Shared Savings Program at the end of 2021 and many IHANY participating practices joined a

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 (screenings and vaccines).

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?
There is no routine out-of-pocket cost 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 list of current care providers
- Screen for memory changes
- Written preventive screening plan for the next 5 to 10 years
- Review of current medications
- Update of your medical and family history
- Measurement of blood pressure, height and weight
- Review of movement ability and risk of falling
- Advanced Care (end-of-life) Planning

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.

new Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO– Trinity Health Integrated Care (THIC). As a result of this change and to comply with the CMS Medicare Shared Savings Program Beneficiary Notification rule, **new posters and beneficiary notices will be distributed**. IHANY is working with the Compliance leaders at St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Associates, Ellis Medical Group and St. Mary's Healthcare, Amsterdam to distribute these new materials to health system practices. Independent practices will receive by email a packet with new poster, new beneficiary notifications, an updated FAQ for office staff, the Trinity Health Integrated Care Beneficiary Notification Policy, and reminder of the procedure. It's **CMS policy** that all Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries be notified of a practice's participation in a Medicare Shared Savings Program ("MSSP") ACO and of their right to decline sharing claims data with the ACO **two ways**:

- **Poster Notifications** - All ACO Participants must display the CMS Notice to Patients poster template in each of the ACO Participants' facilities at the point of care indicating their participation in the MSSP.
- **Letter Notifications** - ACO Participants must also provide to all Medicare Fee-For Service Beneficiaries the CMS Notice to Patients template letter prior to or at their first visit of each performance year

If you have any questions, please contact [Jackie George](#), IHANY Executive Director/COO at 518-257-0659.

- **Promoting Interoperability**: CMS's QPP portal is now open. **Practices that have been identified as needing to report PI please do so ASAP**. Once you have submitted and have your results please email them to both [Brian Pinga](#) and [Laura Graham](#). If you have any questions or need assistance with your submission please reach out to Brian and/or Laura. PI submission must be completed no later than **Friday March 4th**.
- **GPRO**: The team is nearing completion of our first pass of the GPRO file. These next few weeks will be used to chase down any loose ends to ensure we close all of our quality gaps. We ask that any team that has outstanding requests or receives a new request please make it a priority to get that information back to the IHANY quality team as soon as possible.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Wear Blue on March 4th

March is colorectal cancer awareness month and there is a lot going on in the IHANY community to help promote access to this very important screening.



St. Peter's Health Partners will help to raise awareness about the importance of getting screened for colorectal cancer during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

The Cancer Services Program, operated through SPHP, is doing outreach to vulnerable communities. Joining in food deliveries with Catholic Charities, our colleagues are talking with community residents about free screenings, and handing out free FIT kits when appropriate. The goal is to help uninsured and underinsured get a free colonoscopy and/or FIT kit.

SPHP will also launch an awareness campaign targeting those age 45 and older in the greater Capital Region. The campaign will include social media, digital media, and other efforts. Promotion includes Dress in Blue Day on Friday, March 4. Consumers will be encouraged to connect with their provider and get screened. Consumers can visit this web page for more information:

<https://www.sphp.com/find-a-service-or-specialty/cancer/types-of-cancer-we-treat/colorectal-cancer>

In our Ellis/St. Mary's Healthcare primary care communities, the Cancer Services Program of Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties are holding multiple events to offer colorectal screening kits to uninsured patients in those areas. See below for dates, times and details.

3/22/2022 - Women's Screening Day

Ellis Hospital, 600 McClellan Street, Schenectady

1 - 4 pm for eligible, uninsured women 40-64

Colon Cancer Screening Kit hand out to eligible, uninsured women aged 45-64

Must pre-register by calling (518) 770-6816

St. Mary's Healthcare, Rao Outpatient Pavilion, 4950 St. Hwy. 30, Amsterdam.

3 - 4 pm for eligible, uninsured women 40-64.

Colon Cancer Screening Kit hand out to eligible, uninsured women aged 45-64.

Must pre-register by calling (518) 770-6816

3/30/2022 - Schenectady Community Ministries Food Pantry

839 Albany Street, Schenectady

8:30 - 11:30 am

Colon Cancer Screening Kit handout to eligible, uninsured men and women aged 45-64

No pre-registration required

Finally please note our Gastroenterology group in IHANY, Albany GI. See more details below in this month's Speciality Spotlight!

Welcome to the HCC Coding Catch-Up

Documentation, coding and submission of each patient's diagnoses or Hierarchical Condition Category (HCCs) **is required at least once per calendar year, restarting every January 1.**

Coding topics for this month:

Peripheral Vascular Disease (click link: [Peripheral Vascular Disease](#))

Signs and symptoms related to peripheral vascular disease (PVD) that should be documented when present include:

- alopecia on legs
- claudication
- diminished pulses in legs
- ulceration and sores with poor healing on legs

For coding and documentation purposes, peripheral vascular disease is synonymous with:

- peripheral artery disease (PAD)
- spasm of artery
- intermittent claudication

Per coding guidelines, an assumed causal relationship exists between diabetes and peripheral vascular disease unless documented as unrelated. If diabetes contributes to PVD, they should be documented as such and linked with a combination code (click link: [Combination Codes](#)).

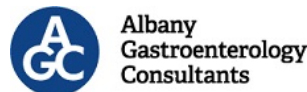
The most effective way to document is MEAT. This acronym represents **M**onitor, **E**valuate, **A**ssess, or **T**reat the condition.

For more information on these topics, visit our website

<https://www.ihany.org/for-providers/hcc-provider-education/>.

Specialty Spotlight

IHANY Network Specialty Practices: Gastroenterology



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>.**

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.

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.

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).

Clinician Wellness & Resilience Suggestion of the Month

Physician Burnout is a long-term stress reaction characterized by depersonalization. Symptoms can include negative attitudes and/or lack of empathy toward patients, emotional exhaustion, and a feeling of decreased personal achievement. Systemic factors (regulatory, managed care, EHR, paperwork, etc.) contribute the most to burnout, even for the most resilient of physicians.

MSSNY members to have access to the **free Peer 2 Peer (P2P)** program to assist physicians who need help in dealing with work or family stressors. This service is completely confidential and anonymous. Under the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) program, physicians may engage in a one-time confidential discussion with a peer supporter—an individual trained to share experiences, listen without judgment, and validate feelings. Referral as needed to a psychiatrist or the Committee on Physicians Health (CPH) can also be facilitated by the peer supporter.

To access the P2P program, please reach out to MSSNY at P2P@mssny.org or call **1-844-P2P-PEER (1-844-727-7337)**.

Connecting our CIN: EpicCare Link

EpicCare Link is a free web-based portal that provides real-time access to patient information so you can access patients' clinical data by connecting you to St. Peter's EPIC medical record system to provide quality patient care. You'll receive automatic notifications when there is an update on your patient, giving you the information you need to plan your patient's follow up and continuing care plans. You can also use EpicCare Link to quickly refer patients to SPHPMA organization. If you have questions about EpicCare link please contact [Stephanie Fadale](mailto:Stephanie.Fadale).

Connect Patients to SPHPMA Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

You can help your patients prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 Diabetes! St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Associates offers a free Diabetes Prevention Program to qualifying patients! The year long program helps participants make healthy lifestyle

changes to lower their risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes! Classes meet weekly for 16 weeks then bi-monthly then monthly. Using a CDC approved curriculum, they focus on a 5-7% weight loss and increasing activity to 150 minutes or more a week. The team covers a variety of topics such as grocery shopping, reading food labels, managing stress, coping with triggers and more. Participants have a trained lifestyle coach to help guide them through the length of the class! Referring is easy through Epic CareLink.

- 1) Order Entry
- 2) Select **Ambulatory Referral to Diabetic Education**
- 3) Select **SPMGP Prediabetes Management for department**
- 4) Answer the questions: Number of hours ordered (**Initial**), Diabetes Services (**Comprehensive Program**), Training (**Group education**), Certification (**select No**)
- 5) Dx Association: **Prediabetes**
- 6) Sign orders

If you want more information or are interested in upcoming classes, visit: [Diabetes Prevention Program | St. Peter's Health Partners \(sphp.com\)](#)

Education

SPHP Medical Grand Rounds – Save the February Dates

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

Meetings are held **12pm-1pm** on Wednesdays

March 2, 2022

AKI and Patient Selection for Renal Replacement Therapy

Jorge Cerda, MD, MS, FACP, FASN
Chief, Department of Medicine
St Peter's Hospital
Clinical Professor of Medicine
Albany Medical College

March 16, 2022

Alzheimer's Disease

Debi Buzanowski-Stowell, MA, CDP CAADCT
Executive Director Alzheimer Services
St. Peter's Health Partners

Microsoft Teams Meeting Link: [click here](#)

For questions, contact:

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

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

Nominations for "Salute to Nurses"

Know An Outstanding Nurse?

Nurses are often present at some of the most valuable points of human life: saving lives, delivering babies, and caring for the sick and dying. Especially during the current pandemic, nurses have truly gone above and beyond.

Please take time to recognize outstanding nurses in our community by submitting a nomination form for this year's Salute to Nurses. This annual event recognizes exceptional nurses from throughout the greater Capital Region. Ten nurses will be selected as the Nurses of the Year.

Nomination forms are available on <https://www.tusalutetonurses.com>.

The deadline for nominations is **March 15, 2022**.

Salute to Nurses is sponsored by St. Peter's Health Partners and the *Times Union*.

REMINDER: 2021 Promoting Interoperability (PI) Reporting

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.

Reminder: IHANY Website Update

There are now easily assessible resources for HCC Provider Education and Quality on [IHANY.org](https://www.ihany.org). Go to the "For Providers" section and choose what topic you would like to explore.

We are here to support 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

Emily Smith, Risk Adjustment Coding Specialist

Julie R. Eisen, Risk Adjustment Coding Specialist

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