

- **2021/2022 GPRO Education Sessions:** The IHANY Quality Team has two remaining education sessions with our organization's quality teams to discuss lessons learned from the 2021 Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO) audit and review of the 2022 GPRO specifications. Invites were sent out on March 28 for all sessions. If you would like to join these sessions and did not receive an invitation, please reach out to [Brian Pinga](#). Recordings and slides from these sessions are posted in these IHANY monthly newsletters and on our website.
 - **Session 2: May 4, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
 - **Session 3: May 18, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

To watch Session 1, presented April 13, 2022, [click here](#).

To view the slide deck from this presentation, [click here](#).

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 topic for this month:

Congestive Heart Failure and Other Cardiac Conditions

(click link: [Congestive Heart Failure and Other Cardiac Conditions](#))

Congestive heart failure (CHF) is documented and coded based on type, acuity, cause, and laterality. Per coding guidelines, a causal relationship is assumed between CHF, CKD and hypertension. **When present together, these conditions must be documented and coded.** Documented diabetes must also be coded with CKD (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: Vascular Medicine/Surgery

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.

Since May is "Stroke Awareness Month," we would like to highlight our Vascular Medicine/Surgery practices and programs. A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted by a blood clot or when a blood vessel bursts. Stroke is the number one cause of disability and the third cause of death in this country. A person's odds of suffering a stroke can be reduced by controlling risk factors of high

blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and smoking. Vascular health also plays an important role in wound care and preventing limb amputation.

ST. PETER'S VASCULAR ASSOCIATES

St. Peter's Vascular Associates offers an experienced team with specialized skills in treating diseases of the arteries and veins. This includes diseases of the aorta and its branches, peripheral artery disease, carotid artery disease, and all venous pathology including deep vein thrombosis (DVT). Their surgeons use the latest technologies in both open and minimally invasive procedures. With more than six decades of combined experience in treating vascular disease, the St. Peter's team of vascular surgeons is dedicated to delivering comprehensive, world-class care.

New patients are always welcomed. Patients should bring results from any previous tests, medication lists, and medical records to their appointment. Diagnostic scans can be scheduled and completed on the day of their visit. Patients are encouraged to contact the practice if they have questions, would like more information about services, or are in need of a second opinion. Medical professionals are invited to contact the practice for consultations or patient referrals.

[St. Peter's Vascular Associates \(Albany\)](#)

[St. Peter's Vascular Associates \(Clifton Park\)](#)

[St. Peter's Vascular Associates \(Troy\)](#)

SAME-DAY WALK-IN VASCULAR CLINIC

This clinic in Clifton Park offers same-day care (walk-ins welcome) for those experiencing symptoms like leg pain or color change, wounds of the leg or foot, swelling of the leg, varicose veins, or problems with dialysis access.

Patients will have direct access to state-of-the-art diagnostic testing, including one of St. Peter's Vascular Associates' Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL)-accredited vascular labs with tests performed by experienced and dedicated vascular technicians. The team will then work with the patient's primary care provider to develop a treatment plan to meet the patient's needs.

Clinic Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, [click here](#).

WOUND CARE

Samaritan Hospital's Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine practice provides individualized, comprehensive outpatient treatment to assist in healing problem wounds caused by vascular problems. The wound care team is comprised of specialists from vascular surgery, podiatry, internal medicine, general surgery, and infectious disease. This is for patients with a wound that has not healed in 30 days, any wound below the knee in diabetes patients or patients with problems in their veins or with circulation, any wound in patients with lupus, rheumatoid arthritis or scleroderma, or if a doctor has suggested the possibility of amputation. For more information, [click here](#). You may also call the practice at (518) 471-3705.

LIMB PRESERVATION PROGRAM

St. Peter's has an Advanced Limb Preservation program that focuses on healing wounds in patients with diabetes, peripheral artery disease, and other vascular problems that could lead to amputation. With appropriate treatment, most amputations are preventable. This program is for patients who have a wound that has not healed in three weeks. Providers will conduct a vascular exam to determine blood flow in the affected limb. For more information, [click here](#). You may also call St. Peter's Vascular Associates at (518) 525-8220.

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

Reducing/Preventing Suicide, Burnout, and Mental and Behavioral Health Conditions

President Biden recently signed into law the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act* which aims to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, and mental and behavioral health conditions related to job stress among health professionals.

This legislation requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide grants to hospitals, medical professional associations, and other health care entities to promote mental health and resiliency among health care workers and to provide mental and behavioral health training for health care students, residents, or professionals.

HHS must also conduct a campaign to encourage health professionals to prioritize their mental health and to use available mental and behavioral health services, as well as study and develop policy recommendations for removing barriers to care, among other issues.

Dr. Breen died by suicide in April 2020 following an intense stretch treating COVID-19 patients at the onset of the pandemic. After recovering from COVID-19 herself, she returned to her job in the busy emergency department of a Manhattan hospital and began struggling both physically and mentally. But, her chief concern was not her failing health; it was the fear of either losing her medical license or that she would get a reputation as someone who couldn't handle pressure if she sought help.

Learn more by visiting [The Legislation | Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation \(\[drlornabreen.org\]\(http://drlornabreen.org\)\)](#).

Clinician Wellness Event Addressing Burnout

Tina Shah, MD, MPH, keynote speaker from IHANY's October Town Hall meeting on burnout, is co-chairing a **"Stop Healthcare Burnout"** symposium at the NY Academy of Medicine in NYC on June 24-25. Online participation is also available.

Dr. Shah is senior advisor to the U.S. Surgeon General, advising on health care worker well-being and workforce sustainability. She is also a founding member of the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-being.



Co-chair, Paul DeChant, MD, MBA, is an internationally recognized expert on clinician burnout. He has authored a book



on clinician burnout and speaks from his unique perspective as a family physician, medical group CEO, and consultant on burnout.

Drs. Shah, DeChant, and their colleagues have pulled together a robust agenda to help health care organizations take action on burnout and make an impact.

Discounts are available for groups of three or more. For more information, visit <https://www.stophealthcareburnout.com>.

It's Time to Celebrate Our Nurses!

National Nurses Week is celebrated between May 6, National Nurses Day, and May 12, the birthdate of celebrated nurse, Florence Nightingale.



Florence Nightingale laid the foundation for professional nursing through her tireless work during and after the Crimean War. As a nursing manager on the front lines,

Nightingale introduced hygiene protocols and other measures that drastically reduced infections and deaths in battlefield hospitals (nationaltoday.com).

During National Nurses Week, we honor our nurses for their contributions and sacrifices they make every day, and acknowledge the vital role nurses play in society. Their dedication and commitment to their patients and their profession is a true calling, especially over the last two years during an unprecedented pandemic in modern times.



Also, each year, The *Times Union Salute to Nurses* program, presented by St. Peter's Health Partners, shines a light on the nursing profession in the Capital Region. Nurses are often present at some of the most critical points of human life – saving lives, healing, delivering babies, and caring for the sick and dying. Family, friends, coworkers and others

whose lives have been impacted by a nurse nominate them for this award. On May 20, a virtual program will be held to recognize 25 local nurses – 10 winners and 15 finalists. A *Times Union* YouTube link to view the event will be provided at www.timesunion.com. The *Times Union* newspaper will print/publish the special *Salute to Nurses* section on Sunday, May 22.

There are more than 273,000 licensed registered nurses in New York state. WE THANK YOU ALL!

Education

SPHP Medical Grand Rounds – May 2022

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>.

Meetings are held 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Upcoming Presentations



Wednesday, May 4, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Music-Induced Hearing Loss: Origins, Mechanisms, and Prevention

Margaret Halinski, MM AuD



Wednesday, May 18, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Effective Palliative and Hospice Spiritual Care

Rev. Lynda Elaine Carre, Holistic Chaplain

Microsoft Teams Meeting Link:

Visit [sphp.com/colleagues/continuing-education](https://www.sphp.com/colleagues/continuing-education)

Links are displayed at the bottom of the page the morning of the event.

For questions, email:

[Kathy Kindness](mailto:kathy.kindness@sphp.com), Medical Librarian

Connecting our CIN: EpicCare Link

If you are a provider -not- currently on St. Peter's Epic/TogetherCare electronic medical record system (EMR), you can use **EpicCare Link** to connect to that EMR. This is a free, web-based portal that provides real-time, read-only access to your patients' clinical data 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 the SPHPMA organization. **You can access EpicCare Link by clicking [here](#).**

NEW TO EpicCare LINK?

To find out if your practice is already set up in EpicCare Link, or if it needs to be added, please email the SPHP EpicCare Link Coordinator [Missy Belotti](mailto:missy.belotti@sphp.com).

Once it is validated that the practice exists in EpicCare, a practice "site administrator" needs to be identified to coordinate and manage access for providers and appropriate practice staff. Practices are able to designate more than one site administrator if needed. Only new account requests submitted to Missy Belotti *by the practice site administrator(s)* will be processed.

You should also contact Missy Belotti if your practice is already set up, but you do not know who your site administrator is or you need assistance reactivating an EpicCare Link

account.

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 class 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!

[Click here](#) to watch a video about how the DPP changed one participant's life!

Referring is easy through [EpicCare Link](#).

- 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 cannot access EpicCare Link and would like to refer a patient, email [Barbara Kipniss](#), Diabetes Prevention Program Coordinator, or call her at 518-447-3548.

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

IHANY Website

There are now easily accessible resources for Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC) Provider Education and Quality on [IHANY.org](#). Go to the "For Providers" section and choose which 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 Management & Operations
[Lyndsey House](#), Post-Acute Coordinator

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

[Learn more about IHANY](#)