



## 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

**As an ACO, it is important that we bring focus to addressing the needs of our patients with the highest disease burden.** In April, the IHANY team began sharing reports centered on managing these members and addressing their risk and quality gaps. We shared how we will be managing this data with our primary care physician (PCP) practice leads through feedback and bi-monthly meetings. If you have any questions around this process please reach out to [Brian Pinga](#).

**Annual Wellness Visits:** Addressing Annual Wellness Visits (AWV) 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 AWV Patient Education document you can utilize for outreach and education. Click [here](#) to access. If you would like copies, posters, or have any other questions, please reach out to [Brian Pinga](#).

**The IHANY Quality Team's GPRO Education Sessions have concluded temporarily and will start up again in the fall.** If you missed any of the 2022 sessions, recordings and slides are posted on [IHANY.org](#). If you have questions about the programs, please reach out to [Brian Pinga](#).

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT Medicare Annual Wellness Visits**

Do 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 covering an assessment.
- Who is Eligible?** Medicare Part B enrollees 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.
- Is the AWV the same thing as a physical exam?** No. An AWV is a yearly visit with your provider to create a personalized preventive health plan, undergo physicals and for addressing chronic diseases and performing routine lab work. However, your care provider may need to perform additional services during an AWV which may have additional costs.
- What should I do if I haven't had an AWV in the past 12 months?** Call your primary care provider and call to schedule your AWV. Call to your provider about what you can do to prepare for the visit and what they would like you to bring.

**What is covered as part of the AWV?**

- Update of your age, sex, address and contact information
- Update of your medical and family history
- Measurement of blood pressure, height, and weight
- Screen for colorectal cancer
- Screen for cervical cancer
- Screen for depression
- Review of current medications
- Written prevention screening plan for the next 12 months
- Review of current medications
- Update of your medical and family history
- Measurement of blood pressure, height, and weight
- Review of cholesterol, blood sugar, and other lab work
- Advanced Care (pre-illness) 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.

Partners: St. Peter's Health Partners, Ellis Hospital, St. Mary's Healthcare, Healthy Hudson Valley, Westchester Medical Center, Albany Medical Center, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, SUNY Broome Community College, SUNY Cortland Community College, SUNY Oswego Community College, SUNY Plattsburgh Community College, SUNY Ulster Community College, SUNY Westchester Community College, SUNY Yates Community College.

## Important Reminder for Patients: Crowded Emergency Departments

Our local emergency rooms are still experiencing overcrowding and longer wait times as a combined result of national nursing shortages and recent resurgences of COVID cases.

Officials with Albany Medical Center, St. Peter's Health Partners (including Albany Memorial Campus, Samaritan Hospital, and St. Peter's Hospital), and Ellis Medicine are warning the public of these longer wait times and asking that people only use emergency departments in true emergency situations.

We are reminding you to please take this opportunity to remind your patients that non-emergency care can be provided more quickly at urgent care centers and primary care offices, some of which have after-hours appointments and virtual care appointments. Also, emergency rooms are **not** to be used as COVID testing sites.

Patients experiencing serious symptoms like a high fever, trouble breathing, or chest pain should still call 9-1-1 or immediately go to the emergency department for care.

Links below are to recent news stories.

[NEWS10](#)

[WRGB-Channel 6 News](#)

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## 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:**

[Morbid Obesity and Malnutrition](#) [Link]

Body Mass Index (BMI) may be documented by clinical staff (e.g., RD, MA, LPN), but morbid obesity must be diagnosed and documented by a qualified provider.

If BMI is 40 and above, or 35 and above with comorbid conditions linked to obesity (e.g., hypertension, diabetes), this meets the criteria for morbid obesity. In these instances, morbid obesity should be documented and coded with current BMI.

"Severe obesity" verbiage may replace "morbid obesity" in documentation, if preferred. BMI should not be documented and coded alone, but always with morbid (severe) obesity.

Malnutrition cannot be coded from a registered dietitian consult, but rather when confirmed and diagnosed from a qualified provider's face-to-face visit.

**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 at [www.ihany.org](http://www.ihany.org).**

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## Specialty Spotlight

### IHANY Network Specialty Practices:



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.

We usually focus on our specialty services, but this month, we are highlighting our

[primary care providers \(PCPs\)](#). We know we have patients seeing specialists who have not seen their PCP in years, or have never had one. We know there are others looking for a new PCP and may need help finding one in their area who is accepting new patients. This includes pediatrics.

It is important to consider that our PCPs support our specialty practices with referrals, so strengthening our primary care network is important for everyone.

It is also important to note the need for our health care colleagues to be established with a PCP. We care about them and want to help them help themselves. Many of the preventative screening opportunities that are available throughout the IHANY network cannot be done without a referral from a PCP.

We have a vast number of IHANY participating PCPs throughout our region, treating patients of all ages. These are links to the primary care locations that are part of the health systems within our CIN. Please share this information with any patients who do not have PCP, and explain the importance of completing an annual wellness visit to help create a plan for prevention and treatment of any health issues. There are also links to recommended vaccine schedules that should be part of these wellness visits and could motivate individuals to see a provider.

[Ellis Medicine](#)

[St. Mary's Healthcare](#)

[St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Associates](#)

[Emily T. Etzkorn, MD](#) (Other providers in the practice are accepting new patients.)

[Five Corners Family Practice](#)

[Hometown Health Centers](#)

[Whitney M Young Young Health Center](#)

[Wynantskill Family Medicine](#) 518-283-1974

Here is the current [CDC guidance for COVID-19 Vaccines/Boosters](#).

Here is the current [CDC Child and Adolescent Vaccine Schedule](#).

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## If You See Something, Say Something

Given the events of the past several weeks with several mass shootings throughout our nation, it is more important than ever to report suspicious activity at your facilities. Safety is everyone's responsibility. All of our facilities will have their own safety practices in place. Some have on-site security. Be sure to have emergency numbers on hand and know what to do in an emergency.

- Please report any suspicious activity and incidents (e.g., blocked doors, people tailgating into the facilities, strange behaviors, people appearing to be doing surveillance, etc.) to local law enforcement or a person of authority immediately.
- **Please call 911 immediately** if there is an emergency involving public or colleague safety (threats of violence, fighting, weapons, etc.).
- Learn more about how to report suspicious activity through this link for the U.S. [Department of Homeland Security](#).

# How to Report Suspicious Activity

## Contact Local Authorities

DESCRIBE

**Who** or **what** you saw

**When** you saw it

**Where** it occurred

**Why** it's suspicious

If you **see** something,  
**say** something\*

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## Clinician Wellness & Resilience

**This month we are focusing on provider burnout.**

The link below is a recent article from the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), "Pushed to Their Limits, 1 in 5 Physicians Intends to Leave Practice."

The article cites several studies and drivers of burnout among physicians, particularly in primary care. The burnout extends to nurses and other staff with implications of "a great clinician resignation." Much of it stems from the added stress of the pandemic and staff shortages.

Approaches taken by several groups and organizations, including Columbia University Medical Center and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), to help mitigate burnout are also discussed.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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## We Want to Hear Your Story! It Could Save a Life!

Many of you will remember seeing our brave SPHP colleague Melissa Zapotocki's campaign to bring awareness to the importance of early and yearly breast cancer screening (mammogram). As you may know, she herself is a breast cancer survivor, thanks to early detection. Watch her story [here](#).



If you have a story of how early detection or a preventative screening may have potentially saved your life, like Melissa, we want to hear from you!! Did you have a colonoscopy? A visit to your primary care doctor? Routine blood work? A prostate cancer screening?

**We would be honored if you would be willing to share your story with your colleagues. You could motivate someone else to get an important screening that could save a life.**

Contact [Deb House](#) at 518-423-1891 or [Brian Pinga](#) at 716-213-7225 if you are interested in sharing your story.

## IHANY Breast Cancer Screening Locations

### Breast Cancer Screening/Mammography

*\*We recommend that all patients check the details of their insurance to understand their coverage and cost responsibility.*



**St. Peter's Breast Center**  
**St. Peter's Hospital**  
317 S. Manning Blvd., Suite 305, Albany, NY 12208  
(518) 525-7536

**St. Peter's Breast Center at Washington Ave.**  
1365 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 525-5287

**St. Peter's Breast Center**  
**Samaritan Hospital - St. Mary's Campus**  
1300 Massachusetts Ave., Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 268-5353

**St. Peter's Medical Imaging**  
1 Tallow Wood, Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 373-4448

**St. Peter's Medical Imaging**  
279 Troy Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144  
(518) 880-6300

**Albany Advanced Imaging**  
3 Atrium Drive, Suite 160, Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 438-0600



**Bellevue Woman's Center**  
2210 Troy-Schenectady Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309  
(518) 346-9400

**McClellan Street Health Center**  
600 McClellan Street, Schenectady, NY 12304  
(518) 382-2000



**Rao Outpatient Pavilion**  
4950 State Hwy 30, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 841-7224

# 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](#).

Once it is validated 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.

*We will continue to highlight the option of using the link for program registrations and referrals when appropriate to streamline the process for our providers and patients.*

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## Education

### REMINDER:

**SPHP Virtual Medical Grand Rounds are on hiatus for July and August. Happy Summer!**

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## 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.

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**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](#).

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[Learn more about IHANY](#)

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