




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. Right-click the image to the right 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](#).

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:
[Cancer](#) (click link)

Cancer is documented and coded based on:

- Type
- Malignant primary and secondary metastases
- Status (active or historical)
- Current treatment

Cancer is considered active when patient is awaiting or currently receiving treatment, current pathology reveals cancer, or if patient is still receiving ongoing treatment after partial or full removal of the organ.

The most effective way to document is MEAT. This acronym represents Monitor, Evaluate, Assess, or Treat the condition.

For more information on these topics, visit our website
<https://www.ihany.org/for-providers/hcc-provider-education/>.

Important Reminder for Patients: Crowded Emergency Departments

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 longer wait times in hospital emergency departments, and asking that people only use emergency departments in true emergency situations.

This is a great opportunity to remind 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. 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.

This latest strain on local emergency departments is caused by the most recent surge in COVID cases. Please see related news stories linked below.

[NEWS10](#)
[WRGB-Channel 6 News](#)

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.

Since National Cancer Survivors Day is celebrated on June 5, 2022, we also want to recognize all those who have either beat cancer or are currently battling through their journey. Their resilience and courage are admirable and their lives should be

celebrated! We also want to take this opportunity to remind our colleagues and providers about the importance of cancer screenings as a key to early detection and better treatment outcomes.

COLON CANCER SCREENINGS

If you are 45 or older, regardless of gender, it's time to have a regular colon cancer screening. Colon cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, but one of the most treatable if caught early!



**Albany
Gastroenterology
Consultants**

To schedule online or request an appointment with **Albany Gastroenterology Consultants**, patients can visit albanygi.com/appointments or call 518-533-5000.

[A special direct access program has been set up for St. Peter's Health Partners (SPHP) colleagues and their family members who wish to use Albany GI's services. They can call Kasandra Hiraldo, LPN, direct access nurse, at 518-599-2229 to be referred into Albany GI for screenings and colonoscopies to be completed within 4-6 weeks of the referral date.]

For other referral options, patients can be seen at:

- [Gastroenterology Health Center](#) in Amsterdam at 518-843-1240
- [Capital District Colon & Rectal Surgery Associates](#) on the St. Peter's Hospital campus at 518-438-2776

BREAST CANCER SCREENING EVENTS IN JUNE (FOR PATIENTS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE)

The key to early detection of breast cancer is for patients to have annual breast cancer screenings. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a substantial decline in cancer screening, so patients need to be encouraged to plan and schedule their screenings. The American Cancer Society recommends beginning these exams at age 40 (or earlier if they have symptoms, a personal history of breast cancer, or a high family risk). Women 55 and older can switch to a mammogram every other year if they choose.



**Cancer Services
Program**

[The NYS Cancer Services Program](#) (CSP) provides breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings at NO COST to eligible women and men. Visit the link to learn who is eligible and which tests are performed.

The CSP of Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady counties is collaborating with St. Mary's Healthcare Breast Health Center and Ellis Hospital Primary Care to host women's health screening events in June.

St. Mary's Healthcare Breast Health Center

Rao Outpatient Pavilion

4950 State Highway 30, Amsterdam

(Screenings include breast exams and mammograms)

Wednesday, June 22, 3 - 5 p.m.

***Pre-registration is required by June 16.**

Ellis Hospital Primary Care

624 McClellan Street, Schenectady

(Screenings include breast exams, mammograms, and Pap tests. Take-home colorectal cancer screening kits will be sent home with eligible patients.)

Tuesday, June 28, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

***Pre-registration is required by June 21.**

For both events, please contact Carmen Rodriguez at 518-770-6817 or Rodriguez1@nysmha.org to confirm eligibility and to make an appointment.

For programs in the greater Capital Region, please call 518-525-8680. Residents outside of those counties can call 1-866-442-CANCER (2262) to find a Cancer Services Program near them.

SCHEDULING BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS

For patients who do not qualify for the above screenings, but need to schedule an appointment, they can remain in the IHANY network by seeing providers at any of these partner locations at St. Peter's Health Partners, Ellis Medicine, and St. Mary's Healthcare Amsterdam.

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 HEALTH
PARTNERS**

A Member of Trinity Health

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



**St. Mary's
Healthcare
Amsterdam**

Rao Outpatient Pavilion

4950 State Hwy 30, Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 841-7224

SKIN CANCER

As summer arrives, there is no such thing as a healthy tan! Everyone should apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher and reapply every two hours; more often if sweating heavily or in water.

St. Peter's Health Partners will have a booth at the Troy Waterfront Farmers Market on June 11 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visitors can learn more about skin cancer and pick up free sunscreen samples. Please encourage your patients to have skin screening exams with their primary care physician or a dermatologist.

PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men (after skin cancer), but it can often be treated successfully. The most common screening test is the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test, which detects levels of a certain protein in the blood. Men over 45 or at high risk for prostate cancer should discuss this screening test with their doctors. For specialty care, patients may be referred to:

[Capital Region Urology](#) through St. Peter's Health Partners.

St. Mary's Healthcare Urology through St. Mary's Healthcare Amsterdam.
If you are an IHANY Network Specialty practice and would like your location featured in a future IHANY Monthly, please email [Brian Pinga](#).

Musculoskeletal Medicine

More than 50 percent of American adults experience joint, bone, and muscle pain; and that doesn't include young child and adolescent athletes. Patients don't have to live in constant pain or avoid sports and other pastimes they enjoy. When it comes to recovering from injury, and restoring proper movement and optimizing quality of life, musculoskeletal medicine, physical therapy, and rehab experts can help! Here is where you can refer patients within the IHANY network:

St. Mary's Physical Therapy in Amsterdam, NY ([smha.org](#)) or call 518-841-3406.

Sports Injuries | St. Peter's Health Partners | Albany, NY for St. Peter's sports injury programs and treatment sites.

Click **Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinics | Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital** to find outpatient Sunnyview Therapy Services locations.

St. Peter's Health Partners recently opened a new **Musculoskeletal Medicine program** in Latham. Click the link to meet Drs. William Douglas and Matthew Erby. This program focuses on orthopedic and physical rehabilitation, including sports injuries, for all ages. They treat injuries, pain, and limited function with an array of non-surgical options. The providers are welcoming new patients. The practice can be reached at 518-713-5400.

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.

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 \(sphp.com\)](#).

Clinician Wellness & Resilience

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>.

Salute to Nurses Winners

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, the *Times Union* recognized 25 local nurses – 10 winners and 15 finalists. You can watch the celebration [here](#).

Congratulations to the winners and finalists selected from within the IHANY network (pictured below).

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

2022 Nurse of the Year Winners



Shatauna "Shay" McCray, LPN,
St. Peter's Diabetes & Endocrine Care
Clinical Lead



Lisa McDonald, RN,
Albany Associates in Cardiology
Clinical Manager

2022 Nurse of the Year Finalists



Chrissy Curcio, MSN, RN,



**Laurie Brann, BSN, RN,
CRNI,**
Eddy Visiting Nurse &
Rehab Association



Lisa Catalano, RN, OCN,
Hildegard Medicus
Cancer Center at
St. Mary's Campus

Director of Nursing,
Critical Care, Cardiology,
Respiratory Services
Ellis Medicine



Talia Pallozzi, RN,
St. Peter's Health Partners
Medical Associates



Devon Sedgewick, RN,
Staff Nurse
St. Peter's Hospital



**Sharon Thomas, BSN, RN,
OCN,**
Radiation Therapy
St. Peter's Hospital

Education

SPHP Virtual Medical Grand Rounds – June 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 Noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Upcoming Presentations

Wednesday, June 1



The Importance of Early Lung Cancer Screenings and Review of New USPSTF Guidelines

Presented by:

Dr. Elizabeth Marshall, MD, MS

Thoracic Surgeon, Albany Thoracic & Esophageal Surgery



Wednesday, June 15

Topics in Behavioral Health

Presented by:

Behavioral Health Services, St. Peter's Health Partners



Wednesday, June 29

***Extra program**

Albany's Refugee Community and Healthcare

Presented by:

Carleen Hawthorne, LMSW - Mental Health

Emily Smith, Health Access Program Coordinator

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Microsoft Teams Meeting Link:

Visit sphp.com/colleagues/continuing-education

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

Medical Grand Rounds will be on hiatus for July and August. Happy Summer!

For questions, email:

[Kathy Kindness](mailto:kathy.kindness@st-peters.org), Medical Librarian

IHANY Website

There are now easily accessible resources for Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC) Provider Education and Quality on [IHANY.org](https://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](#)
