



Top Story

Staying on Top of MIPS: What You Can Do Now

The Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) is the new mechanism through which all MaineHealth ACO participants will receive adjustments to Medicare reimbursement, unless specifically exempted. MIPS is a component of the Quality Payment Program created by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA).



[Read more](#)

ACO In Action

MaineHealth ACO Improvement Advisor Contributes Expertise and Perspective to Downeast Practice

As a benefit of ACO participation, practices are eligible to receive on-site quality improvement assistance from our team of improvement advisors. This is the story of one advisor and one practice.

Once a coastal Maine port bustling with shipyards, mills and factories, Stockton Springs is now a sleepy little village where more than twenty percent of the 1,500 residents are 65 or older. Downtown, you'll



Stockton Springs Regional Health Center Practice Manager Theresa

find only a store or two, a post office, and the Stockton Springs Regional Health Center. With the aging population that's become typical in rural Maine, the health center may be the busiest place in town.

Merithew (L) and MaineHealth ACO Improvement Advisor Regina Quattrucci

Three providers see a steady flow of patients at the primary care practice, a federally-designated Rural Health Clinic operated by Waldo County General Hospital. Dr. Richard Read, Dr. Bernadette Stevenson and Mary Elsa Theobald, APRN-NFP, are all participants in the MaineHealth ACO.

[Read more](#)

Measure of the Month

Hypertension Control

Welcome to the Measure of the Month, a new series of articles each of which explores a key MaineHealth ACO quality measure and provides tips and resources to help achieve the measure goal.

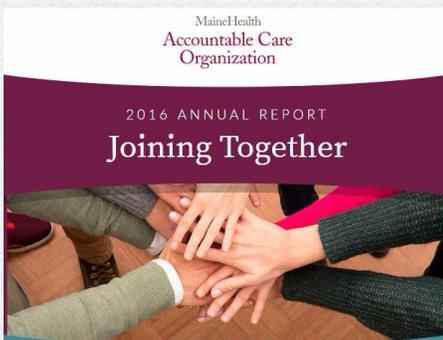


We kick off the series with an in-depth look at hypertension control. One of our Top Ten Quality Goals.

Controlling high blood pressure is an important step in preventing heart attacks, stroke and kidney disease. Health care providers and clinical staff have an opportunity to help patients manage their high blood pressure through medication and lifestyle modifications, which could reduce the patient's risk of developing serious health conditions.

[Read more](#)

Need To Know: Important Updates



Explore the MaineHealth ACO Annual Report Online

Grab your smartphone, tablet or pc and navigate over to the MaineHealth ACO's new online annual report. Highlighting 2016 ACO activities and results, it features animated graphics, stories from diverse stakeholders and new insights into the day-to-day work behind the ACO's success.

"This is the first report we've published since the MMC PHO and Community Physicians of Maine joined with the MaineHealth ACO to become one unified organization," says Dr. Betsy Johnson, CEO and President of the ACO. "Readers familiar with those legacy organizations will see that the partnership of employed and private providers, primary care providers and specialists,

hospitals and practices is alive and well - and contributing to impressive work and outcomes. And, equally importantly, they'll witness the power of coming together around a shared vision of healthier patients and healthier communities."

[Read the report](#)

Please Alert Us to Practice Demographic Changes

New mailing address? New providers? Other changes? Please let us, and payers, know so we can keep our rosters up-to-date. Below are some of the items that the ACO and payers should be made aware of:

Practice Updates:

- Changes to your practice name or, physical, mailing or billing address, phone, or fax - please send updated W-9 form
- Change or add a billing TIN -please send updated W-9 form
- Adding or Closing a location

Individual Provider Updates:

- Change to a provider's name or specialty
- Termining a provider
- Adding a new provider to your practice
- Add an existing provider to an additional location

In addition, please remember to complete the forms required by some Managed Care Plans. Forms can often be located on their websites.

For any questions please contact [Heather Owens](#)

Events

CLINICAL SUPPORT TRAINING *and* DEVELOPMENT

Medical Assistant Training - Free to All

2017 Training Dates and Locations

August 2nd & 3rd, MaineHealth, 110 Free St., Portland

September 6th & 7th, MaineHealth, 110 Free St., Portland

October 4th & 5th, MaineHealth, 110 Free St., Portland

November 1st & 2nd, MaineHealth, 110 Free St., Portland

[Click here](#) for details and registration

Questions? Contact [Claire Schreiber](#), Program Coordinator

Advanced Medical Assistant Training - Free to All

2017 Training Dates and Locations

June 21st, MaineHealth, 110 Free St., Portland

August 23rd, Western Maine Health Care

September 20th, MaineHealth, 110 Free St., Portland

October 25th, Waldo County General Hospital

November 8th, MaineHealth, 110 Free St. Portland

[Click here](#) for details and registration

Questions? Contact [Claire Schreiber](#), Program Coordinator

Care Management Training - Free to MaineHealth ACO Participants & \$100 for non-participants

August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, MaineHealth, 110 Free Street Portland

October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, MaineHealth, 110 Free Street Portland

November 28th, December 5th, 12th, 19th, MaineHealth, 110 Free Street Portland

[Click here](#) for registration

Questions? Contact [Claire Schreiber](#), Program Coordinator

Resources

In-person, Customized Diabetes Training for Staff

Are you looking for a way to provide information to staff on diabetes national treatment guidelines, common medications and current research and trends? Is your staff confused by all of the new injectable medication and would they benefit from a hands-on practice sessions for some of the most common injectable medications? MaineHealth Diabetes Clinical Specialist, Elizabeth Nalli, is available to offer customized diabetes training for all members of the care team. Trainings are offered as requested and are delivered in person. Length is determined in collaboration with the requesting site.

FMI: [Elizabeth Nalli](#), 207-661-7599.

Primary Care Providers: Special Endocrinology Medical Education Opportunity through Project ECHO Distance Learning Platform

[Project ECHO](#) (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is about spreading knowledge, expanding capacity and accelerating collective wisdom. ProjectECHO sessions are like a virtual Grand Rounds - primary care providers from multiple sites connect at a regularly scheduled time with a team of specialists using a teleconference system. This hub and spoke model creates a learning loop whereby primary care providers learn from specialists and from each other, and specialists learn from primary care providers. It is based on the idea of moving knowledge, not people.

This fall, MMP Diabetes and Endocrinology Center will be teaming up with primary care practices interested in sharing best practices for endo and diabetes care and applying case-based learning.

To learn how to participate, please contact [Joan Ingram](#), diabetes program manager.



FAST FIVE: ACO Spotlight

Heidi Wierman, MD

**Division Director, Geriatrics, Maine Medial Center
& Medical Director, Healthy Aging, MaineHealth**

Each month, we ask an ACO stakeholder five quick questions about their work and life. This month, we catch up with Dr. Heidi Wierman.

[Read the interview](#)

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