

What's Hot: Important Updates

Webinar Highlights Important Changes to Financial Distribution

Join us to learn how practices can leverage changes to the ACO's financial distribution model this year. Jen Moore, MaineHealth ACO's chief operating officer, will review past distribution models and discuss what's new in 2017. A Q&A session will follow. We recommend that practice managers, finance staff and quality improvement staff attend for maximum benefit.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

For any of these dates and times:

Monday, March 13, 12:00 pm

Tuesday, March 14, 5:00 pm

We invite you to submit Q&A session questions ahead of time. Please email [Christopher Sawyer](#) to submit questions or seek assistance or information with webinar registration.

ACO Awards 2017 Hanson Scholarship

In 2015, the MaineHealth ACO established the Louis A. Hanson, D.O. Scholarship to provide financial support to independent physicians attending the Daniel Hanley Center's Health Leadership Development course. The scholarship honors the spirit and memory of Dr. Louis Hanson, a beloved champion of the solo doctor and a major force behind the Maine Medical Center PHO and Community Physicians of Maine.

We're pleased to announce that the 2017 recipient of the Hanson Scholarship is **Dr. Cindy Avery**, a family physician dedicated to caring for underserved geriatric patients in rural Maine. Dr. Avery has practiced for more than 20 years in diverse settings, including in nursing homes, rehab centers, hospitals, the traditional doctor's office and in people's homes. She currently practices in a small rural clinic in Downeast Maine and as medical director of a hospice organization with sites in Calais and Lubec. Dr. Avery also serves on the faculty of the Maine Medical Center's Family Medicine Residency program.

"I have a particular interest in how to make transitions of care less problematic, how to optimize the use of the electronic record to make it a valuable tool for patients . . . how to get back to really listening to patients and how to stop fragmenting health care by giving patients the time they really need with their doctors," says Dr. Avery.

Dr. Avery sees the Health Leadership Development course as a way to build her capacity to confront the underlying causes of poor health among elderly rural Mainers, particularly poverty. She hopes that the specific leadership techniques and shared experiences of other health care providers will help her understand how to

take on more far-reaching projects and goals. “I am cracking open the exam room door,” she says, “and looking out.”

Dr. Avery is just the kind of physician that Dr. Hanson would admire. Before his death in 2012, Dr. Hanson was renowned for his passion, patient-centeredness and perseverance – attributes that Dr. Avery clearly applies to her 20 year career of caring for some of Maine’s most vulnerable and sometimes forgotten, citizens. Through the Hanson Scholarship, we’re thrilled to play a small part in supporting Dr. Hanson’s legacy.

Annual Wellness Visits for Medicare Patients

Annual wellness visits are a valuable component of your Medicare eligible patients’ care. Annual wellness visits are a Medicare benefit and are covered by all Medicare and Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. Most MA plans also cover an Annual Physical Exam, and a few MA plans cover both of these services even when performed on the same day.

Some MA plans offer additional incentives for completing specific documentation related to these visits. Complete and accurate documentation and coding for these visits is critical to ensure that patients are receiving the necessary care. Martin’s Point Generations Advantage asks that primary care providers complete a Comprehensive Visit Form for eligible patients, and they offer a \$100 incentive for each returned form in addition to reimbursement for the visit. To help communicate this opportunity, the ACO has been assisting with the distribution of forms to primary care practices.

The Annual wellness visit and annual physical exam are opportunities to connect with your patients and provide high quality, patient centered care. The documentation related to these visits helps ensure Medicare receives critical information on the illness burden of your patient panel. This impacts many different things – from the amount the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid reimburse the MA plan to their quality and cost expectations for the care you provide.

To learn more about Martin’s Point’s Comprehensive Visit documentation program, view their Fall 2016 newsletter [Fall 2016 Newsletter](#). You may also find these two [reference materials](#) helpful when completing the forms.

For more information on the ACO’s value based agreements with MA plans, please contact us at MHACOinfo@mmc.org.

Important Reminder: Use Secure Email When Sending Patient Information (PHI)

Our secure email portal has been updated. If you need to send information to, or receive information from, the MaineHealth ACO that contains patient information and you do not already have a secure messaging server, you must use the secure email portal to do so. Information sent using unsecured email (including but not limited to gmail.com, yahoo.com, Hotmail.com) can expose your practice to the risk of a HIPAA breach if these service

providers were hacked. If you are not using a secure messaging server, please follow the steps below if you need to send or receive protected health information or other confidential information:

Register for the new portal to establish a username and password:

1. Visit <https://secureemail.mainehealth.org>
2. Create your account using your email address, first and last name, and password
3. An email verification will be sent to you – click the link in the email to activate your account

Receiving a secure email from a MaineHealth ACO employee:

1. The message that you receive will contain the term CONFMSG in the subject line, and a link within the message will bring up your sign in page
2. Sign in to read the email, if you reply to the email it will continue to be secured

Sending a secure email

1. Visit <https://secureemail.mainehealth.org> and log in using the password you created when you registered
2. Start your email subject line with 'CONFMSG' followed by your subject
3. Craft the email in the space provided, you can also include attachments

If you need assistance with the secure message portal please call us at (207) 771-2004. For more information on HIPAA and Privacy and Security Breach Notification Rules, please click [here](#).