



The Latest from Sparrow Care Network

Payer Updates

On August 2nd, a memo was sent to practice managers encouraging that all Federation Accountable Care Organization (ACO) members apply for the Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception (EUC) <https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/exception-applications#extremeCircumstancesException-2021> for PY 2021 due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. **Federation ACO practices should apply for the EUC and request reweighting of the Promoting Interoperability (PI) Category.** Applying for the exception specific to the PI category ensures that each practice does not have to submit PI documentation on their own. Instead, the Federation ACO will only be evaluated on quality and improvement activities, both of which are submitted collectively and have received top scores in past years. Practices must submit their applications to CMS through the QPP portal by December 31, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Maria Cowan (maria.cowan@sparrow.org) or 517-364-8144.

Clinical Best Practice Corner – Annual Wellness Visit

Annual Wellness Visits (AWV) create an opportunity to provide patient-centered care with a renewed focus on disease prevention and improving overall health, while also promoting the importance of complete/accurate documentation, coding, and risk assessment. The SCN PHLs have been providing education on AWVs during the 3rd Quarter Chapter meetings, while also meeting with practice managers to provide more in-depth information. For more details, please contact either Sarah Abfalter (sarah.abfalter@sparrow.org) or 517-364-8169, or Nicole Allen (nicole.allen@sparrow.org) or 517-364-8182.

In Our Community

Mobile Health Clinic:

In conjunction with Sparrow's mission, the purpose of the Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) is to increase access to quality, compassionate care by bringing healthcare services directly to the communities that we serve. Through partnerships with community centers, food distribution sites, health departments, and other local agencies, the MHC provides care to patients who may not be able to access healthcare services through traditional avenues. MHC outings are staffed by providers from the Sparrow Medical Group (SMG) Family Medicine Residency Clinic, as well as a Nurse Navigator, Resource Coordinators and additional caregivers from the Population Health Service Organization (PHSO). Each MHC event offers a variety of services including primary care, health screenings, point of care testing, immunizations,

referrals, resource navigation, and non-perishable food items. For more information and a list of upcoming events, please visit <https://sparrow.org/mobileclinic>.

Exercise is Medicine – Sparrow MAC:

The Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club is introducing EIM-MAC – an eight-week medically-based clinical exercise program for adults experiencing or who are at-risk for chronic health conditions. Please keep this in mind for your patients who might benefit. While enrollment is currently open, the program will likely be referral-based in the future. For more details, see the attached brochure or contact the MAC at 517-364-8800.

Hot Off the Press

Quality and Network Performance:

As required by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), Clinically Integrated Organizations like SCN must achieve improvements in healthcare quality and efficiency. As a result, it is important for SCN to demonstrate efforts to improve clinical quality and efficiency across the network. Below is SCN's current performance in the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) Clinical Quality Performance Improvement Initiative:

- In August 2021, with data through June 30, 2021, the BCBSM Commercial Score was 3.19 with a ranking of 4 out of 40 physician organizations
- In August 2021, with data through June 30, 2021, the BCBSM Medicare Advantage Score was 3.34 with a ranking of 17 out of 40 physician organizations

Reviewing current 2021 quality performance across all SCN payer contracts, controlling high blood pressure has been identified as an area of opportunity for the network. SCN is currently performing below the NCQA 90th percentile in this metric. Additionally, BCBSM has changed the way a provider can submit a blood pressure reading. Please see the attached presentation with more details.

Quality Measure Changes:

For calendar year 2021, NCQA combined Adolescent Well Care Visits, Well Child Visits in the First 15 Months of Life, and Well Child Visits in the Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Years of Life into new measures (below):

1. Well Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life
2. Well Child and Adolescent Visits age 3-21

Resource Guide Announcement:

The team is pleased to distribute the recently developed 2021 SCN Program Resource Guide. This guide was created for SCN practices as a resource to navigate through the various quality registries, data portals, and additional payer resources that are available to SCN practices. Also included are different quality programs and payer tools that allow practices to address treatment opportunities and increase the overall quality of patient care. Should there be any questions, please refer to the contact list on the last page of the guide.

Unconscious Bias Training Update:

As the Michigan Bureau of Professional Licensing, within the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) announced on June 1, 2021, [new training requirements](#) related to Implicit Bias for Health Professionals have been put into effect as of June 1, 2022, for new applicants, as well as those renewing their existing license/registration. The new requirement includes completing a minimum two hours of implicit bias training.

For those SCN PCPs that completed the 1st Quarter Chapter pre-meeting requirement (the BCBSM Unconscious Bias training), this training does meet the LARA criteria for implicit bias training. However, the initial LARA requirement is two hours of training, while the BCBSM training is one hour of training. Therefore, to meet LARA's requirement you will need an additional hour of training.

Additionally, BCBSM has announced that all PCPs, new or existing, will be required to complete the Unconscious Bias training to earn any potential VBR. If you have any questions, please contact Maria Cowan (maria.cowan@sparrow.org) or 517-364-8144.

SCN Participation

A Clinically Integrated Organization is successful when physicians come together and function as an organized group. You can help further the transformation of SCN by participating in SCN Governance. To learn more, please contact Nicole Allen (nicole.allen@sparrow.org) or 517-364-8182.

SCN/PHSO Contacts Update:

In case you missed recent communications regarding a few SCN/PHSO staff retirements, please refer to the end of this edition of the SCN Bulletin for the most up-to-date contact list!

Questions about Sparrow Care Network?

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