

News At Your Fingertips

A monthly newsletter for primary care and specialty physician practices across New England

Infections May Be a 'Trigger' for Heart Attack, Stroke

Researchers have linked infections such as pneumonia and urinary tract infections to an increased risk of having a coronary event, such as a heart attack, or stroke within the next three months. In the study published recently in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, researchers examined a registry of patients tracked over multiple years in four U.S. cities. They looked at 1,312 patients who had a heart attack or other type of coronary event, and 727 other patients who had an ischemic stroke, the kind caused by a blood clot. [Read the full news article published by the American Heart Association.](#)

Food Assistance Programs May Help Older Adults Adhere to Diabetes Medicine

According to a study recently published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, food assistance programs may reduce the number of low-income older adults with diabetes who forgo their medications because of cost. Researchers found that 12.9% of the study participants who took part in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reported cost-related non-adherence from the previous year. [Read more about the findings.](#)



NOW AVAILABLE: Updated List of APMs Posted on QPP.CMS.GOV

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently posted an [updated list of Alternative Payment Models \(APMs\)](#) in the Quality Payment Program to the [Resource Library](#). The list displays the APMs that CMS currently operates or has announced since November 2018, including those considered Advanced APMs and MIPS APMs. [Learn more about APMs in the Quality Payment Program.](#)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

The end of the QPP 2018 performance period is **December 31**.

Promoting Interoperability hardship exception applications and Virtual Group elections must be submitted no later than **December 31**.

Prepare for the Flu This Holiday Season

Handwashing and immunization are both essential to preventing infections for your patients. A strong campaign also includes on-going education about the importance of these two simple actions for your staff and visitors. By taking these steps, you can help:

- Reduce the likelihood of staff shortages during the height of the flu season.
- Decrease the risk of infections for patients, especially those with chronic conditions.
- Reduce the danger of hospitalizations and readmissions which can lead to increased exposure to HAI.



Access resources on [immunizations](#) and [hand hygiene](#).

If your patients and staff have not been immunized, it is not too late. A strong recommendation

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

OPEN CALL: Quality Payment Program

December 19, 11:30am-12:30pm

January 23, 11:30am - 12:30pm

[Sign up for the Open Calls](#)

WEBINAR: Need to Submit for MIPS but don't have your EIDM Account yet? We got you covered.

January 9, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

[Register Now](#)

WEBINAR: Vaccine Innovations - New Products, Policies, and Communication Techniques to Protect the Public Health

January 15, 12:00pm-1:00pm

[Register Now](#)

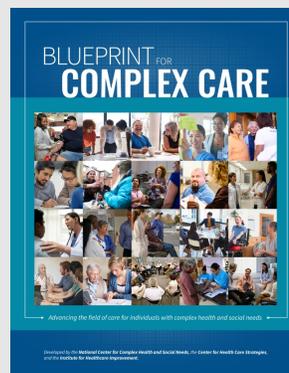
WEBINAR: Promoting Interoperability Deep Dive

January 16, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

[Register Now](#)

NEW RESOURCE: *Blueprint for Complex Care*

Recently, the National Center for the Complex Health and Social Needs, the Center for Health Care Strategies, and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement released the [Blueprint for Complex Care](#), which assesses the current state of the complex care field and presents actionable recommendations to help the field reach its full potential. [Download the Blueprint.](#)



As your regional QIN-QIO, we are committed to providing you with no-cost, innovative quality improvement services to support the success of your practice.

Contact us today!

This material was prepared by the New England Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for New England, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. CMSQINB12019031708.