

## News At Your Fingertips

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

### **STUDY: Diet Sodas Linked to Stroke, Heart Attack Risk**

A new study published in the American Heart Association's journal, *Stroke* shows an association between drinking diet soda and an increased risk of heart disease and stroke. The study, which involved data from 82,000 women ages 50-79, found that only 5.1 percent of participants were drinking two or more artificially sweetened beverages a day, but that group was determined to have a 23 percent higher risk of stroke in general, and a 29 percent higher likelihood of suffering from heart disease.

[Read more about the study.](#)

### **Critical Updates to the 2019 Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes**

The American Diabetes Association<sup>®</sup> (ADA) issued important updates to the 2019 [Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes](#) (*Standards of Care*), as the [Living Standards of Care](#), focused on improving cardiovascular and renal health in people with diabetes. The three key updates involve the use of icosapent ethyl in diabetes, heart failure and renal benefits with dapagliflozin, and change in prescribing information for dapagliflozin.

[View the updated Standards of Care.](#)



### **TIME IS RUNNING OUT -- Improve Diabetes Care and Outcomes, Lower Costs, and Generate Revenue**

There are only the few months left to take advantage of a free consulting session with a national expert on ADA/ADE recognition. Learn how to operationalize your diabetes programs so you can generate revenue and improve clinical and behavioral outcomes of persons with diabetes. Contact [Brenda Jenkins](#) to learn more!



### **Quality Payment Program: 2018 MIPS Data Submission Preliminary Feedback**

The data submission period for the 2018 [Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\)](#) closed on April 2. If you submitted data through the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\)](#) website, you can review your preliminary performance feedback data. Your final score and feedback will be available in July. Between now and June 30, your score could change based on:

- Special status scoring considerations
- All-Cause Readmission Measure for the Quality performance category
- Claims measures to include the 60-day run out period
- CAHPS for MIPS Survey results
- Advancing Care Information Hardship Application status
- Improvement Study participation and results
- Creation of performance period benchmarks for Quality measures that did not have a historical benchmark

For more information, contact the Quality Payment Program at 866.288.8292 or [QPP@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:QPP@cms.hhs.gov).

## **PATIENT & FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL (PFAC) SPOTLIGHT**

### **Meet Elsie Marangoly**

*"I have 40 years of vast experience in the healthcare field,*

specifically working with patients and families in hospitals, the mentally and physically challenged client settings, and the community public health medical field. I am a retired Assistant Director of Health Services from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts NRS, Department of Developmental Services, and I'm currently involved in the East ethnic community as a leader for the South Indian Community of the New England region."

[Learn more about Elsie's experience as a PFAC Advisor.](#)



## Upcoming Learning Opportunities

### **National Learning & Action Network Series - Antibiotic Stewardship: National Updates, Progress, and Next Steps**

May 8, 3:00pm - 4:30pm

[Register Now](#)

### **OPEN CALL: Quality Payment Program**

May 15, 11:30am - 12:30pm

June 12, 11:30am - 12:30pm

[Sign up for the Open Calls](#)

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!\*\*](#)

## Office of Minority Health Releases Toolkit to Promote Physical Activity

National Minority Health Month encourages individuals, especially racial and ethnic minorities, to work physical activity into their daily lives. The Office of Minority Health has released a [Social Media & Outreach Toolkit](#) featuring a variety of resources in English and Spanish including shareable graphics, and sample social media messages to help promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle. [Download the Toolkit.](#)



[www.healthcarefornewengland.org](http://www.healthcarefornewengland.org)

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