

News At Your Fingertips

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

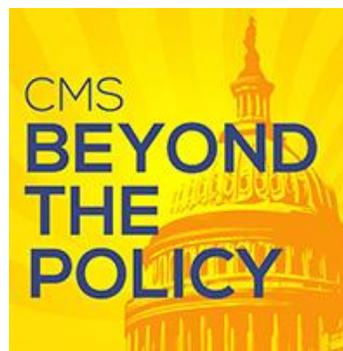
New Report Shows Cardiovascular Disease Affects Nearly Half of American Adults

Nearly half of all adults in the United States have some type of cardiovascular disease, according to a recent report on heart and stroke statistics published in the American Heart Association's *Circulation* journal. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. while stroke is ranked as number five. The rise in cardiovascular disease can be attributed to the new blood pressure guidelines and the way high blood pressure is now being defined. [Read the article.](#)

CMS Launches Podcast to Reach Stakeholders

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced a new podcast series, *CMS: Beyond the Policy*. The goal is to inform a broad audience of updates and changes to the agency's policies and programs in an easily accessible and conversational format.

[Listen to the inaugural episode](#) of *CMS: Beyond the Policy* which focuses on Evaluation and Management Coding as finalized in the 2019 Physician Fee Schedule. New episodes will be released periodically and are available for download on iTunes and Google Play, as well as the [podcast webpage](#).



CMS Distributes Letter on Reducing Opioid Misuse

CMS recently mailed letters to all Medicare fee-for-service providers highlighting strategies to reduce opioid misuse by people with Medicare. The letter emphasized the agency's commitment to exploring and offering viable options to address the opioid crisis, sharing information on the data with other agencies and organizations, and protecting beneficiaries and communities affected by the crisis. [Read the letter.](#)

REMINDER: Important Deadlines to Submit MIPS Year 2 Data

CMS has officially opened the data submission period for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians who participated in Year 2 (2018) of the Quality Payment Program. Data can be submitted and updated any time until **8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.**

CMS Web Interface users need to report their Quality performance category data by **8:00 p.m. on March 22, 2019.** Clinicians who reported Quality measures via Medicare Part B claims can sign in to gpp.cms.gov to view current performance based on claims that have been processed by your Medicare Administrative Contractor.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

WEBINAR: MIPS Quality Performance Category Demystifying Scoring with Benchmarks, Deciles and Measure Selection

March 26, 11:00am - 12:00pm

[Register Now](#)

REMINDER: Healthy Living Center of Excellence Chronic Disease Master Training

The Healthy Living Center of Excellence (HLCE) is hosting a Chronic Disease Master Training (CDSMP) program **April 1 through April 5.** Due to a state-specific grant, residents of Massachusetts can

WEBINAR: How the Trauma Informed Approach Can Help Treat Substance Use Disorder

March 28, 11:00am- 12:00pm

[Register Now](#)

OPEN CALL: Quality Payment Program

April 10, 11:30am - 12:30pm

[Sign up for the Open Calls](#)

attend at no-cost. Residents of New England states other than MA can attend for a reduced fee. Training material will be included along with a light breakfast and lunch.

Please contact Edi at (978) 946-1274 to register.



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!

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