

News At Your Fingertips

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

How Physicians Describe Heart Risk Can Affect Patient Willingness to Act

Reuters recently reported that physicians may need to rethink how they explain to patients their odds of experiencing heart disease and its potential consequences. According to a recent study published in *JAMA Cardiology*, patients often misunderstand the risk. Researchers discovered that patients typically were more concerned about heart disease and more willing to take preventive medication when told about their long-term chances of having a heart attack or stroke. [Learn more about the findings.](#)

Diabetes Self-Management Education - Help Your Patients Lower Risk for Complications

More than 30 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, but one out of four people are unaware they have it. While there isn't a cure for diabetes, individuals can reduce its impact on their life – delaying or even preventing complications from arising. For individuals who have pre-diabetes or diabetes, the Self-Management Resource Center's evidence-based Diabetes Self-Management Education workshop is a great additive to regular preventive healthcare.

The New England QIN-QIO offers this six-week workshop at no-cost to the patient or the facility hosting. Contact the [New England QIN-QIO Diabetes Care Education Lead](#) in your state for more information or to schedule a workshop in your community.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Releases Letter on Burden Reduction Efforts

On November 8, CMS released a letter to clinicians from Administrator Seema Verna outlining how the agency is reducing burden through reform of documentation and coding requirements. The letter also highlights some of the key initiatives CMS has launched to reduce documentation burden.

[Read the letter here.](#)

PATIENT & FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL (PFAC) SPOTLIGHT



Meet Sarah Schoonman

"I have over 50 years of experience working with hospitals and provider practices. My responsibilities as the Director of Health Information Management were to ensure that the patient's medical records were held in accordance with all the rules and regulations to ensure patient confidentiality. I have also had the experience of being a patient. I believe that my experience can help the PFAC identify difficulties and issues that could enhance or become a road block to a better outcome."

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

CMS Releases Final Rule for the 2019 Quality Payment Program

CMS recently issued its policies for Year 3 (2019) of the Quality Payment Program via the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule. There are some important changes to be aware of

including additional eligible clinician types, changes to low volume threshold, higher point thresholds to avoid a penalty, and more.

Read the recent [QPP Quick Bits blog post](#) for highlights on the Year 3 Final Rule policies.

You can also download this [Quick Start Guide to MIPS for 2019 participation](#) for more information.



Upcoming Learning Opportunities

OPEN CALL: Quality Payment Program

November 21, 11:30am - 12:30pm

December 5, 11:30am - 12:30pm

[Sign up for the Open Calls](#)

WEBINAR: Overview of the 2019 Final Rule - Implications for Solo and Small Group Practices

November 27, 11:00am - 12:00pm

[Register now](#)

or

November 29, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

[Register now](#)

SAVE THE DATE - WEBINAR: Chronic Care Management Benefits, Workflow and Reimbursement

December 12, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NEW RESOURCE: Know the Difference Between the Cold and Flu

[Download the Cold vs. Flu resource](#) to help your patients understand what different symptoms mean, and how to prevent the spread of cold, flu, and antibiotic resistance.

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!](#)