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Let your voice be heard.
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking comments on the proposed Meaningful Use Stage 3 rule released in mid-March. We've held webinars over the past two weeks to let everyone know what the rule entails, how it differs from Stage 2, and the timeline for requirements. Here is a PDF of the PowerPoint presentation.

Stage 3 focuses on eight objectives:

1. Protect patient health information
2. Clinical decision support
3. Patient electronic access to health information
4. Health information exchange
5. Electronic prescribing
6. Computerized provider order entry
7. Coordination of care through patient engagement
8. Public health and clinical data registry reporting

You can view the webinar as well as the three Question & Answer periods that followed on our website here or go directly to YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCNq7vozqzE

This is Session 1 Q&A at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHRZz9fZEuM
This is Session 2 Q&A at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ5h3cPtqxg
This is Session 3 Q&A at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcYA72dT4rg
In addition, if you'd like to be part of a team that puts together comments for CMS, please contact Cathy Costello at ccostello@ohiponline.org or Scott Mash at smash@ohiponline.org so they can consolidate them. 
Comments sought by CMS are here. The deadline for comments is May 29 so please have them in to us by May 22.

**Breaking news: 2015-2017 MU rule is here**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 through 2017 late Friday afternoon. While we're in the process of examining the proposed rule -- which relates to Stages 1 and 2 -- we can initially see that reporting will be for any 90-day period, a long-awaited modification sought by the medical community. The View-Download-Transmit requirement for patients to communicate electronically has been reduced to 1 percent. Here is a fact sheet with an overview by CMS.

We'll discuss these changes and many more in another upcoming webinar series. Stay tuned for more good news!

**Welcome new practices, specialties and LTPAC facilities**

We continue to have practices, long-term care and post-acute care facilities connect to the CliniSync Community every day. We welcome you and thank you for participating in the CliniSync health information exchange.

These members now can take advantage of results and reports delivery and other electronic communications at no charge.

**Welcome:**

Admirals Pointe Nursing & Rehab in Huron
Bethuy, Joseph MD Pediatrics in Youngstown
HCR Manor Care-Heartland of Portsmouth
Helping Hands Health & Wellness Center in Columbus
Millersburg Clinic in Millersburg
Ohioans Home Healthcare in Toledo
Paumier, J. Cletus, MD in Salem
PediatriCare Associates in Toledo
Thomas and Husain Medical Associates in East Liverpool
Vlad Pediatrics in Cortland
Wood Lane Residential Services in Bowling Green
Wright-Patterson Medical Center (WPMC) in Dayton
Zanesville Pediatrics in Zanesville
We're hiring!

As CliniSync continues to work with more providers in Ohio and expands the services it offers, we're finding that we also need to add personnel to our staff.

If you know of anyone who has an interest in Health Information Technology, please contact us. We're looking for full-time positions in internal IT to assist our staff with their needs as well as an individual to work with the Support arm of our CliniSync Health Information Exchange.

For more information, go to www.clinisync.org to the About Us tab on the top right, then click into We're Hiring or you can click here.

Up-to-date listing of hospitals connected to CliniSync

We want to make sure you know where to go on our website to view the hospitals that are now live, delivering results and reports directly to physicians and other providers in communities.

In addition, a listing of the hospitals will also tell you who is in process, meaning those that are in some level of implementation.

As these hospitals continue to go live, they not only are delivering results and reports to physicians and CCDAs to long-term care facilities, they are helping to build a master patient index that will become the basis for a Community Health Record. To date, we have more than 6.5 million unique records.

You can find this listing on the front page of our website at www.clinisync.org where you will see Search for Hospitals on the right hand side in pink. There also is a listing when you click into CliniSync Health Information Exchange on the front page left where it says: Welcome to. There also is a listing on the right hand side under Features or you can click here now to see the list.

What you don't do in 2015 will cause 9% in penalties in 2017

That's the title of an article by Jim Tate of HitechAnswers who explains clearly that providers who don't complete Meaningful Use reports every year will continue to suffer penalties from CMS.
At CliniSync, we too are finding that some hospitals and practices don't understand that you must report year after year, not just one or two times. If you have any questions, call us at 615-664-2600 to talk with our Meaningful Use experts.

In the meantime, please read this article.

Medicaid erroneous letter sent to 4,200 providers

This is an alert from our attorneys:

Last week, the Ohio Department of Medicaid erroneously sent 4,200 Ohio Medicaid providers a letter stating that they had been terminated and/or excluded from Ohio Medicaid. These letters are to be disregarded in full.

The letters, sent on March 18, were sent due to a system error. The system issue has been resolved, and all affected providers have been restored to an “active” status.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid says that its initial review of the incident suggests that the list of 4,200 providers that received the erroneous letter was entirely random.

If you received this letter and have any questions, please contact the Department of Medicaid at 1-800-686-1516.

This Health Care E-Alert was prepared by Michael Corey. Please contact any member of the Bricker & Eckler Health Care group for more information.

Here is information from the Ohio Department of Medicaid’s website.

April 17-18 Medical/Legal Summit in Cleveland, Northeast Ohio

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio, The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation will co-sponsor an annual Medical/Legal Summit on April 17 & 18.

The summit will bring together doctors, lawyers, healthcare professionals and others who work in allied professions in Northeast Ohio.
The AMCNO has obtained CME accreditation for the program from St. Vincent Charity Hospital, and the program is also approved by University Hospitals (UH) for 5 hours of live Clinical Risk Management Education (CRME) credit for those physicians participating in the UH-Sponsored Physician Program.

The keynote speaker on Friday, April 17, is Governor Michael Leavitt, founder and chairman of Leavitt Partners, a healthcare intelligence firm dedicated to helping clients navigate the future of health care. Leavitt has served as former Secretary of Health and Human Services and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under former Pres. George W. Bush, and is three-time elected governor of Utah.

The sessions on Saturday will cover telemedicine, physician extenders, end-of-life issues, medical marijuana, Affordable Care Act, and opioids and pain medicine.

To view summit details and to register for this event, click here.

Get ready for the Ohio Osteopathic Annual Symposium April 22-26

Drawing on her experience as team captain of the first American Women’s Everest Expedition, Alison Levine will share her experience when she presents On the Edge: The Art of High-Impact Leadership at the Ohio Osteopathic Symposium.

Levine makes a compelling case that the leadership principles that apply in the world of extreme adventure also apply to today’s rigorously competitive business environments.

“In any situation where lives are on the line or the stakes are exceptionally high,” she says, “There’s no better training ground for leaders than settings where people are pushed beyond their perceived limits.”

The symposium will be held at the Hilton Easton in Columbus. To register for the symposium and to view the full array of scheduled events, please click here.

Ohio Optometric Association Practice Management Institute May 6

Scott Jens, OD, will kick off an annual team-building event for doctors and staff at Columbus State University Conference Center May 6. An entrepreneurial OD, his inspirational career travels from an optometry clinic to industry volunteer to software developer.
Also presenting is John Rumpakis, OD, MBA, whose presentation, Cracking the Code, explores anterior segment disease cases and how to improve clinical skills.

Jay Henry, OD, MS will explore Meaningful Use and Quality Reporting.

Participants also can join EHR user groups for Revolution, Practice Maximus, Eyefinity and Crystal Practice Management. For more information go to this webpage or call 1-800-874-9111.

Dental Access Now! is seeking support

One of our partners -- UHCAN Ohio -- is launching a public health campaign to garner support for citizens’ access to dental care entitled Dental Access Now! You can sign an online petition to support legislation to approve dental therapists to work in Ohio.

UHCAN’s position is that dental therapists can help provide families with the care they need to prevent dental pain, missed school or work and, in extreme cases, the development of life-threatening infections due to lack of access to dental care.

Other states like Minnesota – and 52 other countries worldwide – are already using dental therapists to expand access to affordable dental care. Every study conducted on these providers shows they provide safe, quality care in the communities where it is needed most, UHCAN reports.

You can contact David Maywoor, Project Director of Dental Access Now! through the UHCAN Ohio website at www.uhcanohio.org/DAN.