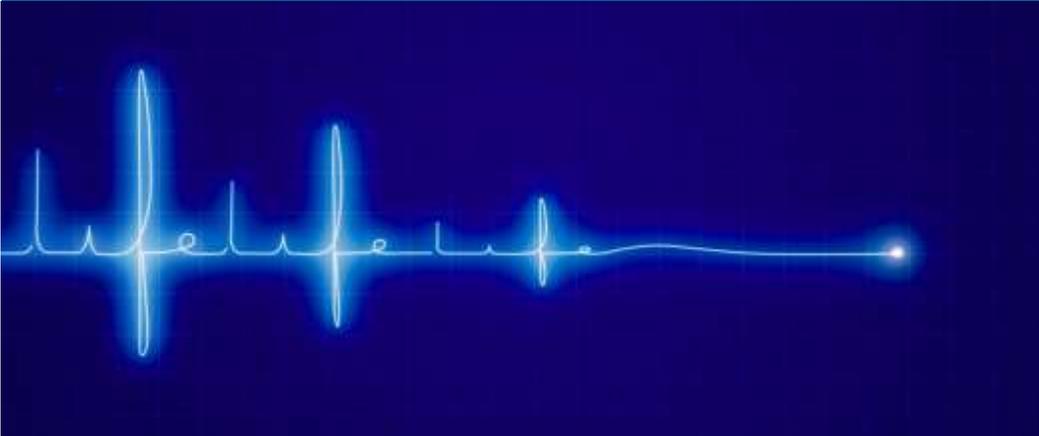


GMIPA Newsletter

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Serving New

Mexico since 1997

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575.538.2355

GILA MULTI-SPECIALTY INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION

GMIPA MISSION:

To organize and operate a quality-driven and cost effective health care delivery system. The association consists of healthcare providers who enter into membership agreements with GMIPA to facilitate an environment that promotes healthcare practice viability.

WARNING: Global emergence of invasive infections caused by the multidrug-resistant yeast, *Candida auris*

The CDC has received reports from international healthcare facilities that *Candida auris*, an emerging multidrug-resistant yeast, is causing invasive healthcare-associated infections with high mortality. Some strains of *C. auris* have elevated minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) to the three major classes of antifungals, severely limiting treatment options. *C. auris* requires specialized methods for identification and could be misidentified as another yeast when relying on traditional biochemical methods. CDC is aware of one isolate of *C. auris* that was detected in the United States in 2013 as part of ongoing surveillance. Experience outside the United States suggests that *C. auris* has high potential to cause outbreaks in healthcare facilities. Given the occurrence of *C. auris* in nine countries on four continents since 2009, CDC is alerting U.S. healthcare facilities and healthcare providers to be on the lookout for *C. auris* in patients.

Please read CDC's recommendations for identifying and managing patients with *C. auris*:
<http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/candida-auris-alert.html>

August is National Immunization Awareness Month The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC has materials available to share. You may contact them at (800) CDC-INFO (232-4636) or visit their website at:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/default.htm

September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month- One in five children in the U.S. suffers from obesity, which can lead to a lifetime of physical and mental health problems. The American College of Sports Medicine has materials available to help providers educate their patients. You may contact them at publicinfo@acsm.org or visit their website at:
www.coam-month.org

CMS Proposed Policy, Payment, and Quality Provisions Changes to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for Year 2017

On July 7, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that updates payment policies, payment rates, and quality provisions for services furnished under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) on or after January 1, 2017. This year, CMS is proposing a number of new physician fee schedule policies that will improve Medicare payment for those services provided by primary care physicians for patients with multiple chronic conditions, mental and behavioral health issues, and cognitive impairment or mobility-related disabilities. Please visit the CMS website for updates and further information.

Expansion to Diabetes Prevention Program

CMS is proposing to expand the Diabetes Prevention Program model starting January 1, 2018. This is the second CMS Innovation Center - and first preventive services - model that has been certified for expansion. Expansion of this model is intended to enhance access to these important services for Medicare beneficiaries who are at risk for developing diabetes.



The Biller and Coder Corner



Prior Authorization is REQUIRED for In-Network Services for the following products:
 Medicare Advantage HMO, HMO-POS, PPO and RPO plans including AARP MedicareComplete, AARP MedicareComplete Secure Horizons, AARP, MedicareComplete Focus, UnitedHealthcare MedicareComplete plans for both individual and employer group members, and group plans sold under UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage (PPO).

Replacement Codes Policy

Consistent with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines, United Healthcare Community Plan will deny reimbursement of specific codes assigned an "I" status within the National Physician Fee Schedule where CMS has created replacement Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for physicians and healthcare professionals to report in lieu of the "I" status codes.

I Status Code	Replacement Code
77387	G6001, G6002
97014	G0281, G0283

Visit the UHC website for more info

BCBSNM Availability "Back to Basics" webinars offered

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico (BCBSNM) will present "BCBSNM Back to Basics: Availability 101", a complimentary webinar covering the self-service electronic tools and features that can be accessed through the Availability Web portal.

In this one-hour training session, BCBSNM will present an overview of electronic options that can help make doing business with BCBSNM faster and easier.

Learn to:

Check real-time patient eligibility and benefits for BCBSNM members with the Availability Eligibility and Benefits tool

Access and utilize the Availability Claim Research Tool for enhanced BCBSNM claim status information.

To register now for a complimentary online training session click below-

- [August 11, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. MT](#)
- [August 25, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. MT](#)
- [September 1, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. MT](#)

More dates on the BCBS website

Mental Health and the Aging

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), approximately one in four older adult Americans have a mental health disorder.

This number is expected to double to 15 million by 2030. Due to the influx of behavioral health issues in the older population, the

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) & the Administration on Aging (AoA) put out a brief report detailing the state of mental health within this older population.

Two-thirds of older adults with mental health problems do not receive the treatment they need.

Current preventative services for this population are extremely limited, especially in rural and frontier communities. Untreated substance abuse and mental health problems among older adults are associated with poor health outcomes, higher health

care utilization, increased complexity of the course and prognosis of many illnesses, increased disability and impairment, compromised quality of life, increased caregiver stress, increased mortality, and higher risk of suicide. For more

Information visit the National Council for Behavioral Health at: www.thenationalcouncil.org/



Opioid Prescribing

According to the Molina Provider News Bulletin, there is reliable evidence that the risks associated with prescribing opioids for individuals with chronic pain may outweigh its benefits. The most significant risks are inappropriate opioid use, overdose, and death. According to the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) about forty (40) Americans die each day from overdosing on prescription painkillers. Molina Healthcare of New Mexico strongly encourages providers to review the [CDC's Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#)

Please follow this link to review: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>

The guidelines provide a recommendation for appropriate prescribing of opioid medications to treat chronic pain. It offers recommendations for clinicians who are treating chronic pain, but is not intended for Members who are receiving cancer treatment, palliative or end-of-life care. Objectives of the guidelines are to enhance communications between clinicians and patients about the risks and benefits of opioid therapy for chronic pain, improve the safety and effectiveness of treatment, decrease inconsistencies in prescribing practices, and reduce the risks of inappropriate opioid use, overdose and death.



GRMC RECEIVES TOP RATES

In new hospital ratings released July 27, 2016, by CMS, Gila Regional Medical Center scored among the highest, with four stars. Ratings applied to 3,662 U.S. hospitals. The number of stars each hospital received depended on how well the hospital performed on 64 measures of safety and performance that already appear on the government's [Hospital Compare](#) website. They include death rates, readmissions, safety indicators and patient satisfaction scores. The goal is to offer consumers a simpler measure of hospital quality than the full listing of more than 100 separate measures reported by the government. U.S. hospitals, were granted from one to five stars, with five stars representing the highest quality of care. Congratulations to our partners at GRMC and all of the excellent providers who made the award possible!

Become a Member

We provide infrastructure, messenger model negotiating for managed care contracts and a forum to discuss and promote policies that support providers increasing the quality of services to their patients. As a member of the GMIPA, you are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of these benefits. All new healthcare professionals joining our organization must be certified. Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.gmipa.com. If you have questions, please contact the GMIPA Administrator, Rebekka VanNess, at 575-538-2355 or email at rebekka.vanness@gmipa.com

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