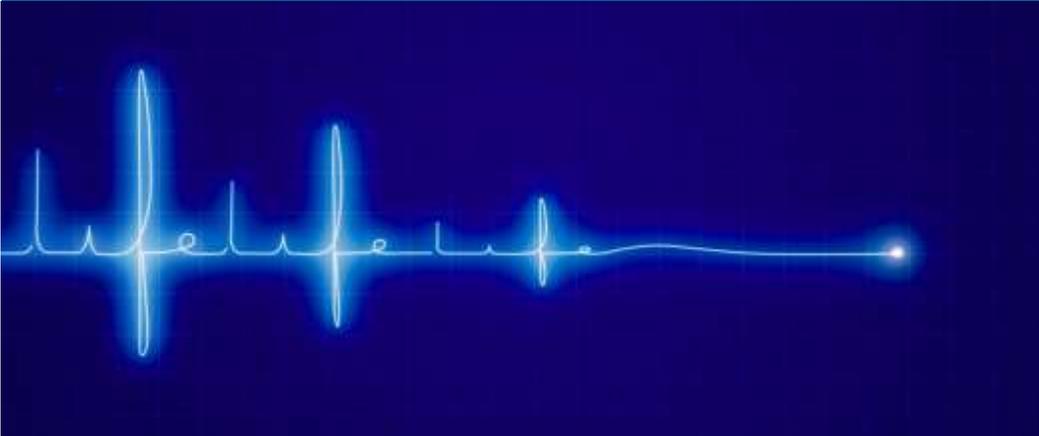


# GMIPA Newsletter

Edition 17, Volume 1



Serving New

Mexico since 1997

<http://www.gmipa.com>

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.

### UNITED HEALTHCARE Prior Authorization required for certain office procedures

For dates of service on or after April 1, 2017, care providers must provide notification for the following procedures to be covered in a site of service other than a physician's office. Please note that notification must be provided when these procedures are performed in a physician's office.

Dermatology	11100, 11402, 11422, 11403, 11406
Muscular Skeletal	27096, 64479, 64483, 64490, 64493
Respiratory	31579

If notification/request prior authorization as required but not obtained, claims will be denied. Members cannot be billed for services that are denied on the basis non-compliance with notification/prior authorization protocols.

Visit UHC online at : [www.unitedhealthcareonline.com](http://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com)

**February- Heart Health Month** Millions of Americans live with heart disease, stroke or a cardiovascular condition. It is possible that over 70 percent of heart attacks are preventable, and one in three deaths of women are due to heart attacks. Speak with patients today about ways to mitigate risk factors for a healthy heart. Visit: [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

**March- National Social Workers Month** Social workers stand up for millions of people every day, including people who are experiencing devastating illnesses and mental health crises, our veterans, children, families and communities .The contributions of social workers in rural communities is particularly important. Visit: [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

**April- National Alcohol Awareness Month** use this month to raise awareness about alcohol abuse and educate patients on how to take action to prevent it. Visit: <https://healthfinder.gov/NHO/PDFs/AprilNHOToolkit.pdf>

## GMIPA Seeking new Board of Managers member nomination

After many years of committed service on our Board, Dr. Koury is stepping back. This post is open to medical doctors and ancillary and advanced level providers. Self-nominations are gladly accepted. You may email your nomination to [rebekka.vanness@gmipa.com](mailto:rebekka.vanness@gmipa.com)



Expansion of Radiology and Cardiology Notification/Prior Authorization Protocols to All Savers Plans (Off-exchange) - Effective April 1, 2017

Providers must submit notification prior to scheduling a planned service that is subject to UnitedHealthcare's Outpatient Radiology Notification/Prior Authorization Protocol and Cardiology Notification/Prior Authorization Protocols for a UnitedHealthcare All Savers (off-exchange) member. These members can be identified by their ID cards.

These protocols include a prior authorization requirement that applies when a UnitedHealthcare member's benefit document requires health services to be medically necessary to be covered. Once notification has been received, the plan conducts a clinical coverage review if the member's benefit document requires health services to be medically necessary and covered.



## The Biller and Coder Corner

### ICD)-10 Code Updates and Impact to 4th Quarter 2016 Eligible Professional Medicare Quality Programs

On October 1, 2016, new International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS code sets went into effect. Updating of these codes traditionally occurs on an annual basis, however, during the immediate years leading up to the ICD-9 to ICD-10 transition there was an extended freeze to code updates to support a smooth transition. Therefore, for fiscal year (FY) 2017, updates and revisions include changes since the last completed update (October 1, 2013). As a result of the coding updates, a large number of new codes were added or removed from the ICD-10 code set. The CMS is aware of the relationship between the ICD-10 update and quality reporting. Under the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), calendar year (CY) 2016 is the performance period for (1) the 2018 PQRS and Value Modifier payment adjustments and (2) for eligible professionals (EPs) who were part of a Shared Savings Program ACO participant TIN in 2015 and are reporting outside their accountable care organization (ACO) for the special secondary reporting period, because their ACO failed to report on their behalf for the 2015 PQRS performance period.

Visit:

[https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Downloads/ICD-10\\_Update\\_Listserv.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Downloads/ICD-10_Update_Listserv.pdf)

### Key to proper reporting under Macra

The seas of change around ICD-10 may be calming, but medical practice coders must remain vigilant as quality reporting requirements kick in. Top-of-mind is the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA).

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) made 2017 a transition year for physicians, offering them [five participation choices](#) under MACRA, from full- or partial-reporting to non-participation. Participating physicians who report all or some data for 2017 can earn positive adjustments on 2019 incentive payments, while non-reporting providers will be penalized 4 percent. Understanding the affects can be tremendous, Provider organizations are putting more resources into clinical documentation improvement (CDI) and Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) coding—practices that make up the foundation of a successful QPP strategy.

**THE GMIPA EXTENDS A  
WARM WELCOME TO THE  
FOLLOWING NEW  
MEMBERS:**

Anthea Schmid, PT



**Desert Springs Physical  
Therapy**

Anita Gallardo, CNP



**Hidalgo Medical Services**

Evalinda Gonzales, MD



**Hidalgo Medical Services**

Rachel Seltzer-Sonne, MD



**Hidalgo Medical Services**

Edith Lee, LMSW



**Hidalgo Medical Services**

**GMIPA and Altura offer  
Access to Health Studies  
and Clinical Trials**

GMIPA and Mission Viejo, CA based Altura, LLC ([www.alturastudies.com](http://www.alturastudies.com)) have joined together in partnership to provide GMIPA healthcare providers (HCPs such as physicians, nurses, PAs, NPs, pharmacists, therapists, etc.) and patients access to clinical trials and health studies.

This collaboration gives GMIPA Provider Members an opportunity to be aware of and provide to patients an option for regional clinical trials. Many patient surveys consistently show that patients want their HCPs to be aware of their clinical trial options<sup>1, 2</sup>, however, nationally less than 3% of HCPs serve as research physicians. Also, GMIPA HCPs can directly participate in healthcare assessment surveys as well as observational studies.

GMIPA's Provider Member HCPs will be able to download a GMIPA version of Altura's HCP Studies™ mobile app. If desired this tool can also be accessed via a web portal for PCs and lap tops. This app is available for Apple and Android based mobile devices.

A limited number of GMIPA Provider Members will be piloting the project, which will eventually be expanded to all GMIPA Provider members. If you have an interest in learning more about the app or if you would like to download instructions, please contact Rebekka VanNess at the GMIPA office

575-538-2355

**No going back on  
Childhood Nutrition**

The American Heart Association reports there is myriad evidence that the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, signed into law in December 2010, is working. As of September 2016, more than 99 percent of schools participating in the National School Lunch Program were meeting the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's updated science-based nutritional standards, up from only 14 percent in 2009-2010, before the law went into effect. Schools are currently working on a sodium reduction program. As nearly one in three children are overweight or obese sodium reduction can help stymie their risk of developing high blood pressure, which can lead to premature heart disease, stroke and other chronic health issues. surveys found 70 percent of elementary school administrators and food service staff report positive feedback from students on the healthier lunch standards, and 72 percent of parents support nutrition standards for school meals.

Popular programs such as farm-to-school and school gardens help enhance meal time, and adopting best practices that engage children, such as taste tests, food presentation and cafeteria environment, also boost a program's success. By 2025, the healthy nutrition standards for all food sold in schools are estimated to decrease the number of childhood obesity cases by more than 2 million and reduce school costs by \$800 million. A USDA analysis found a \$200 million increase in revenue in the first year of implementing updated meal standards.

Visit:

<http://news.heart.org/editorial-dont-go-backward-on-child-nutrition/>

## BECOME A MEMBER

We provide infrastructure, messenger model negotiating for managed care contracts and a forum to discuss and promote policies that support providers while 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](http://www.gmipa.com). If you have questions, please contact the GMIPA office.

### Board of Managers;

Chair: **Darrick Nelson, MD, CMO**, Hidalgo Medical Services

Vice-Chair: **Victor Nwachuku, MD**, Cassie Health Center

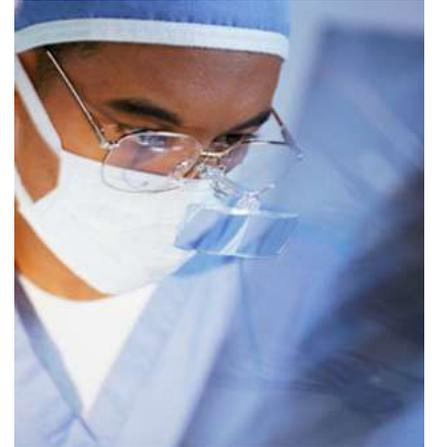
Treasurer: **Brian Robinson, MD**, Southwest Bone and Joint Institute

**Nicholas Mittica, MD**, Gila Eyecare

**Jim Skee, MD**, Silver Healthcare

**Dan Zerger, CRNA**, Gila Regional Medical Center

**Gregory Koury, MD**, Zia Access Health Care



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