



## Mission Statement:

To promote high-quality, cost-effective medical care that is physician driven, financially sustainable and valued by health care stakeholders.

*Your Link to CSMS-IPA News*

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# Connections

*SERVING THE NEEDS OF INDEPENDENT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN CONNECTICUT SINCE 1986*

## The CSMS-IPA Announces Agreement with WellCare of Connecticut, Inc. Medicare Advantage Product

The CSMS-IPA Board of Directors has approved an agreement with WellCare of Connecticut, Inc. to arrange for the provision of medical services and related health care services to WellCare's Medicare Advantage beneficiaries in those counties that WellCare markets their products. Currently, WellCare of Connecticut offers health benefits coverage for individuals enrolled in their government sponsored health plan in Hartford, Fairfield, Tolland and New Haven counties. The IPA will assist WellCare in enhancing their current network and recruiting a physician network in potential expansion counties for 2011.

This agreement commences January 1, 2010. The CSMS-IPA is offering its Primary Care Physicians and Specialist Physicians an opportunity to join the CSMS-IPA arrangement with WellCare. Physicians who opt-in to the arrangement are offered additional opportunities as compared to standard Medicare in the form of "upside-only" financial bonuses. For information on the rate structure, please contact CSMS-IPA directly at (203)225-1291. Physicians that are currently participating and credentialed in WellCare can opt-in through the IPA arrangement, as well as physicians not yet part of the WellCare network.

Please email us at [info@csms-ipa.com](mailto:info@csms-ipa.com) or call 203-225-1291 for more information.

## Give the CSMS-IPA Five Minutes and We Will Show You How Easy it is to Get Your 2% Bonus!!

For calendar year 2009, Medicare (CMS) is paying qualifying physicians a 2 percent (2%) bonus based on their Part B payments for submitting data for the Physicians Quality Improvement Initiative (PQRI). IPA practices have been able to complete this process in less than two weeks!

### **DO NOT DELAY, CONTACT THE CSMS-IPA TODAY**

Call (203)562-7228 ext. 10 to speak with Pattie Mastroiano, e-mail the CSMS-IPA at [info@csms-ipa.com](mailto:info@csms-ipa.com) or check us out on the web - [www.csms-ipa.com](http://www.csms-ipa.com).

## The CSMS-IPA Announces Recruitment of its Patient-Centered Practice Model

The Patient Centered Practice Model (PCPM) is the IPA model for addressing the changing healthcare environment with a "Medical Home" management approach to care. This opportunity is available for all IPA physician members. Within the PCPM, additional funding (\$10 per member per month (pmpm)) for Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) is available as outlined in the PCPM participation agreement.

PCPs and Specialist Physicians are eligible for surplus generated within CSMS-IPA agreements if medical cost benchmarks are met and exceeded. The IPA intends to utilize concurrent data, online programs, HIT and increase care coordination opportunities to help physicians manage quality and medical costs in reaching outlined benchmarks. Opt-in documents are available on the IPA website at [www.csms-ipa.com](http://www.csms-ipa.com) or by emailing a request to [info@csms-ipa.com](mailto:info@csms-ipa.com).

# Medical Director Update

*Connecticut Health Quality Cooperative (CHQC)*

*By Ken Sacks, M.D.*

By now many of you have received an invitation from the Connecticut Health Quality Cooperative (CHQC) to view physician specific aggregated HEDIS quality data on a secure web portal. I hope that you avail yourselves of this opportunity to see data which, unless you have an EMR or registry, would be difficult for you to obtain.

This leads, of course, to a discussion about the value of adopting Health Information Technology (HIT) instruments to promote quality improvement and reporting. Both these activities, as well as the use of HIT, play important roles in quality improvement opportunities. In addition, incorporating activities associated with a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), or as the IPA prefers to call it, the Patient Centered Practice Model (PCPM), can help promote quality improvement. The CSMS-IPA stands ready to assist practices in the development of these opportunities.

## CSMS-IPA Mission and Vision for Physician Members

The CSMS-IPA will continue to bring member physicians market based opportunities which are consistent with the mission statement of the IPA:

**“To promote high-quality, cost-effective medical care that is physician driven, financially sustainable and valued by health care stakeholders”**

To this end, the IPA continues to provide value added opportunities for its members in technology, PQRI, purchasing and revenue services as it has in the past. Additionally, the IPA strategic plan calls for seeking opportunities with payers (commercial insurers, employers and government programs), who share a vision for healthcare which promotes the adaptation of many primary care practices to a Patient Centered Medical Home (PC-MH) model. The construct of a PC-MH is the centerpiece of many health care reform initiatives.

The CSMS-IPA will bring opportunities to practices wishing to adopt the PC-MH paradigm and assist those practices in achieving this transformation. The IPA refers to the PC-MH as a Patient Centered Practice Model (PCPM), thus stressing the central role of the Primary Care Physician (PCP) in health care delivery and the care coordination necessary to interact and manage patient care with specialist physicians and other health care professionals. Please contact the IPA at (203)225-1291 or go to our Website at [www.csms-ipa.com](http://www.csms-ipa.com) to opt-in to PCPM today!

## Required Training on Fraud, Waste and Abuse

*All Health Net Medicare Advantage Participating Physicians*

Health Net recently sent out a provider update related to this required training. Effective January 1, 2009, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires all Medicare Advantage organizations to have annual training, education and lines of communication for all participating providers, including Medicare Part D participating providers. Health Net, in accordance with the regulations, has developed Fraud, Waste and Abuse Compliance training at no cost to you. This training must be completed by December 31, 2009 in order to comply with CMS regulations.

### *Accessing Training*

The Fraud, Waste and Abuse Compliance training can be accessed through the Health Net provider Website at [www.healthnet.com/provider](http://www.healthnet.com/provider). Once on the site, select the appropriate region, then select Contractual and Clinical Resources > Fraud, Waste and Abuse Compliance Training.

### *Additional Information*

If you have any questions regarding the training, or to request hard copies of the training document, contact the Health Net Provider Services Center at (800)438-7886.