

Quality Improvement Corner

Communication Matters

Open patient communication is a necessary component of providing informed patient care. With all the treatment options available today, sometimes the patient is left out of the loop when it comes to understanding the advantages of making the right treatment choice. As an in-network provider with Health Partners, we encourage you to openly communicate with your patients regarding appropriate treatment options, regardless of benefit coverage limitations.



In the News

Healthcare Reform Update:

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)

Dr. David Blumenthal, former national coordinator for health IT at HHS, will be returning to research work at Harvard University after stepping down from his two-year appointment to help Obama's administration set the ground work for the government's criteria for meaningful use of health IT. Many are hopeful that the momentum that Blumenthal created will continue long after he leaves office in the spring.

In a note to his staff, Blumenthal said a two-year term limit was planned when he accept the position, as he got approved from Harvard a sabbatical with a two-year limit.

Dr. Blumenthal and the ONC have faced several challenges over the past two months, including, criticism about the pace and sense of direction with the federal IT program; legislation in the House seeking to strip unexpended funds from the electronic health-record system incentive program, and grumblings from providers about the program's meaningful use requirements.

Blumenthal receives continuous praise from many in the health and IT industry, such as Dr. Paul Tang, vice chairman of the Health IT Policy Committee when he described Dr. Blumenthal as "a superb national coordinator who accomplished an enormous amount in his two-year tenure."

Blumenthal's replacement has not been named yet, and a specific departure date has not been set.

Please visit www.ModernHealthcare.com for up to date information about Healthcare Reform, and other related Healthcare Business News.

Health Partners is here to help!!

Please do not hesitate to call the Health Partners Provider Relations department with any questions, comments, suggestions, complaints, educational requests, or any other concerns regarding Health Partners.



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Visit us online: www.healthpartnersnetwork.com

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Quality Improvement Coordinator, Janet Lathem: 770-219-6604

PARTNERS PRESS

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WINTER 2011

WELCOME

Alia S. Brown, MD—Dermatology; Gwinnett Dermatology
Allen P. Butler, MD—Otolaryngology; Northeast Georgia Otolaryngology Associates

Heather D. Butler, MD—Pediatrics; Pediatric Associates
Christina R. Carrick, MD—Pathology; Stephens County Hospital

Munira Charania, MD—Radiology; Stephens County Hospital
Steve R. Crider, MD—Pain Medicine; Specialty Clinics of Georgia

Haythem H. Dimashkich, MD—Pathology; Stephens County Hospital

Suzanne R. Greene, LCSW—Psychotherapy; Solo Practitioner

Sujoy Gulati, MD—Emergency Medicine; Gainesville Emergency Department Services

David H. Hurray, MD—Pathology; Stephens County Hospital

Janice M. Lage, MD—Pathology; Stephens County Hospital

James E. Madory, DO—Pathology; Stephens County Hospital

Jyoti N. Manekar, MD—Family Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Kimberly G. Morris, MD—Pathology; Gainesville Urology

Robert B. Raybon, MD—OB/GYN; Solo Practitioner

Christina A. Saurel, MD—Oncology/Hematology; Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic

James E. Spoden, MD—Otolaryngology; Habersham ENT Services

James L. Taylor, MD—Internal Medicine-Hospitalist; The Longstreet Clinic

Charles L. White, Jr., DO—Family Medicine; Mt. Yonah Family Practice

New Facilities:

OptimusMed, LLC—Orthotics/Prosthetics; 770-822-6787

Premier Medical Services, Inc.—Orthotics; 770-781-4138



**The HP Provider Directory
and Handbooks are currently being
reviewed and updated for 2011!**

Please be on the lookout for more information!!

2011 Credentialing

Committee Meeting Dates:

March 30th

June 22nd

September 28th

November 30th

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**NORTHEAST GEORGIA
HEALTH PARTNERS®**
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Health Partners Provider News

Provider Relocations, Changes and Terminations*

As of January 1st, **Ronald L. Brock, MD** (Urology) joined with **Northeast Georgia Physicians Group** at their location at 1315 Jesse Jewell Parkway, Gainesville, GA. This office can be reached at 770-219-6520.

Dr. Ronald G. Beebe (Allergy and Asthma) is now affiliated with **The Longstreet Clinic**, and has moved to their office at 725 Jesse Jewell Parkway, Gainesville, GA 30501. His office phone number will remain the same: 770-536-0470.

Gastroenterology Associates of Gainesville, office of **Drs. Allen, Clark, Jacob, Kalarickal, Moore, Pareek, and Reddy**, have added an additional location in Dawsonville, GA at 1078 Lumpkin Campground Road, Suite 100. Please call their main office to schedule an appointment at this location, 770-536-8109.

The office of **Dr. Richard Russell (General Medicine)** has moved to 1990 Limestone Circle, Suite 100, Gainesville, GA. His phone and fax numbers are as follows, respectively: 770-297-2884 and 770-297-2784.

W. Andy Nish, MD and Kimberly P. Shanks, MD of the **Allergy and Asthma Care Center** have announced an additional location at 5875 Thompson Mill Road, Hoschton, GA 30548. Please contact their main office number for appointments, 770-534-9933.

Gainesville Heart Group (office of Drs. Abboud, Ahmed, Ashfaq, Johnson, King, Shamsi, and Siegfried) will now be known as **Gainesville Heart and Vascular Group, PC**. All contact information remains the same; office number 770-534-9014.

Foot & Ankle Centers of Northeast Georgia announce the move of their Lawrenceville location to 771 Old Norcross Road, Suite 355. To schedule an appointment with **Arminio, Aronoff, Livingston or Schwartz** at this office, please call 770-963-5161.

Northeast Georgia Cancer Specialists, office of Jack T. Griffith, MD; Frank G. Lake, III, MD; and Geoffrey J. Weidner, MD can be reached at their office phone number, 770-219-1824.

As of March 1st, **Drs. Dillard and Jacobson (OB/GYN) with The Longstreet Clinic** will begin seeing patients at their Hoschton location: 5875 Thompson Mill Road, Suite 370. Scheduling can be reached at their primary office, 770-297-2200.

The providers under **The Longstreet Clinic—Internal Medicine/Hospitalist** program have announced inpatient management care at the following additional locations:

- **Chestatee Regional Hospital**, 227 Mountain Drive, Dahlonega, GA 30533;
- **Cobb Memorial Hospital**, 521 Franklin Springs Street, Royson, GA 30662; and
- **Hart County Hospital**, 138 W. Gibson Street, Hartwell, GA 30643

If you have any questions, please contact their office at 770-219-7078.

The following providers will no longer participate with Health Partners upon the date listed below:

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Date</u>
Daniel J. Holtz, MD	June 30, 2010
Ronald A. MacBeth, MD	August 9, 2010
Sharif F. Elkabbani, MD	October 3, 2010
Thomas E. Francis, MD	October 8, 2010
W. Derrick Moody, MD	October 22, 2010
Christopher W. Ratchford, MD	December 1, 2010
Darlene A. Lobel, MD	December 2, 2010
Dinah M. Conti, MD	December 15, 2010
William H. McGeehin, MD	December 17, 2010
William N. Bedingfield, MD	December 31, 2010
John B. DeBanto, MD	December 31, 2010
Edwin H. Lynch, MD	December 31, 2010
Cynthia J. Libert, MD	January 31, 2011
James W. Fordyce, MD	February 28, 2011



REMINDER! We ask that you **notify Health Partners (in writing) of changes that occur to your practice. Please submit all additions, terminations and/or changes to Melissa Corral by way of facsimile to 770-219-6609, by email to Melissa.Corral@nghs.com, or online at www.healthpartnersnetwork.com.**

Please notify us of all satellite/additional locations, as some payers require this information to pay claims.



Contract News

NEW CONTRACTS:

Price Industries, Effective October 1, 2010
Original Appalachian Artworks, Effective November 1, 2010

Health Partners is proud to announce the addition of two new group contracts under our self-insured business: Price Industries and Original Appalachian Artworks. Together, both groups employ about 550 people and bring about 1,300 covered lives to providers in the Health Partners service area.

Both groups have selected Administrative Solutions as their third-party administrator (TPA) to administer and pay claims. To verify benefits, please contact Administrative Solutions at (800) 708-1620. For pre-certification, please contact Hines & Associates at (800) 670-7718.

Please be sure to request an ID card from these members to ensure proper filing of claims and reimbursement. If you have any additional questions, please refer to your Provider Handbook pages, contact Health Partners, or contact Administrative Solutions.

BJC Medical Center Terminates Contract with Health Partners *Effective January 1, 2011*

Health Partners has been informed that BJCMC, a group of 360 covered lives in the HP service area, has switched to a self-insured plan with United HealthCare. Please remember to request a new copy of all member ID cards for this group. If you have additional questions, please contact the number listed on the new ID card.

SALES UPDATE!!!

Following is a sales update for full-insured groups through our affiliate contracts. Data is most current as of December 2010 for the last quarter of 2010 with groups of 10 or more covered lives.

•Alliant Health Plans:

•Atlanta Global Imports; Georgia Mountain Food Bank; Finley Holding, LLP; Blueshore Investment Mgmt, LLC; Wilheit Packaging, LLC; and the City of Toccoa

•Athens Area Health Plan Select:

•Athens Building Supply; Colfield Outdoors; Dr. Douglas in Cleveland; Hill's Supply Company; Lanier Color; Leonard Food Mgmt; Spag's Cabinet Shop; and The Longstreet Clinic

•Consumers Life Insurance Company (CLIC):

•E-Z Bore, Inc.; Johnson Railway Service; Murrayville Veterinary Clinic; Nation Inc.; and Staff Right



MultiPlan Acquires Viant (including Beech Street)

In Spring 2010, MultiPlan, Inc. announced the acquisition of Viant, Inc. and its affiliated entities (including Beech Street, which is a Health Partners contract**). As the two companies combine, they bring together their "expertise and technology to improve efficiencies and patient flow for providers, driving significant savings for healthcare consumers and payers," as stated by Mark Tabak, MultiPlan's CEO in a press release on March 15, 2010.

Founded in 1980, MultiPlan is a PPO network and related transaction-based solutions that reduce the per-unit costs of healthcare claims. MultiPlan contracts directly with hospitals, ancillary facilities and practitioners who participate in their national primary and complementary PPO Networks.

***It is unclear at this time how this acquisition will affect the current contract between Northeast Georgia Health Partners and Beech Street, however, we will do our best to notify our participating provider offices as soon as we have more information and a plan of action going forward. We appreciate your support!*

