

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

Emory Healthcare, St. Joseph's Health System Announce Merger By Modern Healthcare Posted: January 9, 2012



ATLANTA—Emory Healthcare and St. Joseph's Health System formally closed their deal to combine on Jan. 1. The announcement comes 10 months after they announced their intentions for a partnership. The agreement gives Emory a stake in operations at 51% with St. Joseph retaining 49%. St. Joseph will enjoy super-majority rights on issues pertaining to Roman Catholic doctrine and the hospital's mission. The Vatican has already approved the deal. "The partnership will enable us to expand services, facilitating broader patient access while providing a more cohesive experience through sharing electronic medical records," Emory President and CEO John Fox said in a news release. "While this partnership has taken time to develop, I have never been more excited about our future. Emory Healthcare and St. Joseph's, two of Atlanta's oldest, most established and respected centers for health and healing, can now begin the work of enhancing patient care together." Emory consists of three hospitals and more than 20 clinics in the Atlanta area. St. Joseph's Hospital is a 276-bed acute-care hospital with more than 750 doctors.

Available online at:
<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20120109/MAGAZINE/301099942/regional-news-south-emory-healthcare-st-josephs-health-system>

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

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WINTER 2012

WELCOME

Thomas A. Abbruzzese, MD—Vascular Surgery; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Dipti Anand, MD—Dermatopathology; SkinPath Solutions
Tom T. Dang, DPM—Podiatry; The Family Footcare Center
Shrena Patel, MD—Neonatology; The Longstreet Clinic
Sundip S. Patel, DO—Urology; Gainesville Urology
Salem N. Sayar, MD—Cardiovascular Disease; Northeast Georgia Heart Center
O. Stephan Schwarz Vignolo, MD—Critical Care Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Cathy M. Tench, PsyD—Psychology; Solo Practitioner

HP Annual Participation Fees (Due before March 1, 2012)



As a participating provider with Health Partners, we understand the need to actively promote your practice and the important decisions that need to be made regarding managed care contracting. With the annual participation fees, Health Partners helps by making both these processes easier. Through **managed care contracts**, your physicians have access to numerous covered lives without the added expense associated with contract review and negotiations. The **advertising and marketing** efforts are visible through printed directories and published online with a pictorial directory, and the **credentialing process** is made simple and concise by only filling out one application with one effective date for all agreements under Health Partners. These services and others could not be provided without the annual participation dues from our providers. If you have not received your invoice or have questions, please contact Janet Lathem at 770-219-6604.

We look forward to your continued participation as a Health Partners provider and wish you all the best in the New Year!!!



The HP Provider Directory and Handbook information are currently being reviewed for 2012! Be on the lookout for more information soon!!

2012 Credentialing

Committee Meeting Dates:

March 21st

July 18th

November 14th

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Health Partners Provider News

Provider Relocations, Changes and Terminations

Ocmulgee Medical Pathology Association, Inc. (Dr. Lynn D. Cooper, Jr.; Dr. Jerrold A. Clark; and Dr. Sara E. Nash, MD) has opened an additional office location at 1940 Old Highway 5, Blue Ridge, GA 30513. For more information about services provided, please call their main office at 770-612-1395.

On November 1st, Dr. Michael B. Sabom (Cardiovascular Disease-NGPG) will begin seeing patients at a new location: 101 Riverstone Vista, Suite 217, Blue Ridge, GA 30573.

Solutions for Growth, Inc., office of Collin J. VanderPol, LCSW, added additional location in Dahlonega (81 Crown Mountain Place, A-300) and Oakwood (4327 Mundy Mill Road, B1-Suite O). Call the main number for scheduling, 770-354-2970.

Katia M. Adams, MD, with Northeast Georgia Physicians Group, started seeing patients in December at 2825 Keith Bridge Road, Suite 100, Cumming, GA 30041.

The Longstreet Clinic physicians: Amy E. Bullens-Borrow, MD and Stephen R. Fisher, MD will provide services primarily at their Buford location: 5328 Islands Parkway, Suite 100. To reach this office, call 770-533-4755.

Inchol Yun, MD (NGPG) now practices primarily at 2089 Teron Trace, Suite 200, Dacula, GA 30019. To refer a patient, please call 770-848-5300.

Northeast Georgia Heart Center announced in December that their providers will now be visiting Chatuge Regional Hospital, 110 South Main Street, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Brent A. Flickinger, MD and Marta T. Bognar, MD have regretfully closed their Cumming location. To schedule an appointment at their Gainesville office, call 770-531-3711.

The following providers no longer participate with Health Partners effective the dates listed below:

Provider	Date
Steven P. Richman, DPM	October 1, 2011
Kenneth C. Lao, MD	October 17, 2011
Daniel Esteves, MD	November 1, 2011
Stacy A. Parker, MD	November 30, 2011
Sharren E. Wolff, MD	January 1, 2012

As of December 31st, Northeast Georgia Physician Group (NGPG) providers: Robert O. Kelly, MD and Rebecca J. Loomis, MD will provide services primarily at Urgent Care-Braselton. The office is located at 5875 Thompson Mill Road, Suite 100, Hoschton, GA 30548.

Beginning January 1, 2012, Jeffrey R. Ward, MD joined Heritage OB/GYN and will start seeing patients at their Gainesville and Braselton locations. For scheduling, please call 770-531-1515.

The office of Gilbert S. Chandler, III, MD; Steve R. Crider, MD; L. Todd Steward, MD; and Braxton B. Turner, III will now be known as Specialty Clinics Spine Intervention, PC. (Group name change only; all other information remains the same.)

The following Toccoa Clinic providers will now provide services at their Clayton and Lavonia locations: William A. Mills, MD (Family Medicine); Lenka Novotna, MD (Family Medicine); and Shrinath K. Nadig, MD (Otolaryngology); and the following providers at only their Lavonia office: Marc S. Coan, MD (IM); Bhaskerrao M. Patel, MD (Nephrology); Jamie D. Rich, MD (IM); Jim R. Wade (IM) and T. David Yates, MD (IM).

Thomas A. Abbruzzese, MD (Vascular Surgery-NGPG) has began seeing patients at the Braselton office, located at: 5875 Thompson Mill Road, Suite 200.

The Urology providers with NGPG: Ronald L. Brock, MD; Jay S. Hortenstine, MD and Kapil N. Pareek, MD began visiting the Dahlonega offices and Braselton office mid-2011.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Health Partners' requests that your office notify us (in writing) prior to the effective date of any changes that occur with your providers, or 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 use the forms available online at www.healthpartnersnetwork.com.



Contract News

Alliant Health Plan Updates



Effective January 1, 2012, Catalyst Rx 2012 Advantage Formulary will be used by Alliant as a tool to help physicians, and members, in choosing medications that allow the most effective use of a member's prescription drug benefits. By using generic or preferred brand-name drugs, physicians can help members save on out-of-pocket prescription expenses without sacrificing quality of care. For questions, please contact the phone number for Catalyst Rx on the member's identification card. (Sample ID cards for 2012 shown below; both have access to Health Partners providers.)

Anesthesia Modifiers

From the Mutual News Bulletin, Volume 4, Issue 10, October 2011

Effective January 1, 2012, the Medical Mutual Family of Companies (Medical Mutual) will be following American society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) guidelines for submitting modifiers. Anesthesia claims received without the appropriate modifiers to accurately reflect the services provided will not be processed for payment. Unless otherwise negotiated, reimbursement amounts will follow CMS guidelines for modifier reimbursement.

Anesthesia providers should bill Medical Mutual with the following modifiers on claims, as appropriate: AA, AD, QK, QS, QX, QY, and QZ.

After further inquiry, mid-level providers will not need to be credentialed/added to Medical Mutual's system, and split billing is not required; continue using the CPT codes as usual with the appropriate modifiers. Should you have any questions, please contact Melissa Corral at 770-219-6603 so she can relay your questions to our provider relations representative at Medical Mutual/SuperMed.

