

# Northeast Georgia Health Partners **PARTNERS PRESS**

SPRING 2018

## Welcome

Please join us in welcoming the following providers to the  
Health Partners Network

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**Haval Amedi, MD** - Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Sarah Applegarth, PA** - Vascular Surgery; The Longstreet Clinic, PC  
**Vinutha Atmakur, MD** - Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Timothy Beck, MD** - Internal Medicine; Life Point Medical, LLC  
**Nora Blankenship, LCSW** - Social Work; Medlink Georgia, Inc.  
**Ronald Collier, MD** - Surgical Critical Care; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Melanie Cooper, MD** - Family Medicine; Saint Luke's Medical Center  
**Debora Coursey-Prah, MD** - Diagnostic Radiology; The Longstreet Clinic, PC  
**Carlos Garcia, PA** - Orthopaedic Surgery; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Brian Gay, MD** - Diagnostic Radiology; The Longstreet Clinic, PC  
**Peter Gray, PA** - Dermatology; Clarkesville Dermatology & Medical Associates, LLC  
**Afaq Gul, MD** - Family Medicine; Medlink Georgia, Inc.  
**Shravan Kethireddy, MD** - Critical Care Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Kimberly Kurtz, MD** - Family Medicine; Kim Kurtz, MD Inc. dba Foothills Family Medicine  
**Claire Ledford, PA** - Cardiovascular Disease; Gainesville Heart and Vascular Group, PC  
**Heneicia Leflore, PA** - Hospitalist; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Sara Lewis, CRNA** - Anesthesiology; Anesthesia Associates of Gainesville  
**Pamela Logan, MD** - Preventive and Occupational Environmental Medicine; Hall County Health Department  
**Brooklyne Makaya, MD** - Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Albert Mercer, MD** - Cardiovascular Disease; The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center  
**Donna Moss, LCSW** - Social Work; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Jacqueline Owusu, MD** - Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, The Longstreet Clinic, PC  
**Bhavinkumar Patel, MD** - Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Dilish Patel, MD** - Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Sean Perry, PA** - Cardiothoracic Surgery; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Brian Pratt, MD** - Family Medicine; InMed Clinical Services, LLC  
**Jennifer Puckett, PA** - Infectious Disease; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Christopher Soika, MD** - General Surgery; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Cheryl Thorsten, FNP** - Internal Medicine; The Longstreet Clinic, PC  
**Edwin Villarreal-Mazzilli, MD** - Internal Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group  
**Connie Watts, AGACNP** - Cardiovascular Disease; The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center  
**Fiona Zwald, MD** - Dermatology; Dermatology Associates of Northeast Georgia

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This is a publication of the Provider Relations Department of Northeast Georgia Health Partners.  
Should you have any questions or comments please call 770.219.6600.

## Health Partners Contract News

The following businesses have contracts with Health Partners.

### ***Self-Insured Contracts:***

Anesthesia Associates of Gainesville  
Benefit Support  
Candler Concrete  
City of Clarkesville  
City of Gainesville  
Cochran Brothers Electric  
Fab Crew, LLC  
Gainesville Radiology Group  
Georgia Truss, LLC  
Eagle Granite Company  
Habersham Medical Center  
Humane Society of NEGA  
Indigo Energy Partners  
Jacky Jones Automotive Group  
J & J Foods  
Lanier Cold Storage  
Mar- Jac Poultry  
Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic  
Northeast Georgia Health System  
Original Appalachian Artworks  
Protein Products  
Quality Foods  
Stephens County Hospital  
Towns County, GA  
Toccoa Falls College  
Union County, GA  
Union General Hospital

### ***Fully Insured Contract:***

Alliant Health Plans

### ***Medicare Advantage Contract:***

Cigna HealthSpring

### ***Medicaid Care Management Organization:***

CareSource

## Health Partners Provider News

### **Provider Relocations and Changes**

**Amy Conner, CPNP-PC** with The Longstreet Clinic, PC has changed her primary office location to 1270 Friendship Road, Braselton, GA 30517. This office may be reached at 770.533.4770. She is still practicing at the Baldwin, Buford, Gainesville and Oakwood locations.

**Dr. Margaret Davis** with The Longstreet Clinic, PC is no longer seeing patients at the Demorest office. She is still active at the Gainesville and Braselton locations.

**Stephanie Lacy, LCSW, LMFT** has relocated her practice to 142 Forrest Avenue, Gainesville, GA 30501. Her office can be reached at 404.345.7062.

**Afton Burt, PhD**, is now **Afton LaVallee, PhD**. The practice name remains the same - Afton Burt, PhD. The new telephone number for the office is 770.534.9100.

**Cleaver Medical Group, Dermatology** has added a new office location at 59 Tipton Drive, Dahlonega, GA, 30533. Both offices may be reached at 770.800.3455.

Dr. Amy Boyd has changed the name of her practice to **The Allergy, Asthma and Sinus Center, P.C.** The office may be reached at 770.534.0534.

### **The Following Providers No Longer Participate with Health Partners**

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Effective</u>
James Taylor, MD	01-01-18
David Kashmer, MD	01-13-18
Mark King, MD	01-31-18
Omar Mushfiq, MD	01-31-18
Suzanne Childers, NP	02-09-18
Pavani Pandiri, MD	02-18-18
Johnny Bonner, MD	02-20-18
Janaki Narravula, MD	02-20-18
Soujanya Chava, MD	02-20-18
Mary Brown, FNP	03-02-18

# News You Can Use

## Don't Have A Clue About HP2?

HP2 is a clinically integrated network (CIN) of physicians and other providers committed to working collaboratively to improve clinical quality and outcomes at the lowest possible cost. The HP2 network currently includes Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group, The Heart Center, Longstreet Clinic and Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic. HP2 is actively expanding the network for qualified providers.

To learn more about the criteria to join HP2, please visit [www.healthpartnersnetwork.com](http://www.healthpartnersnetwork.com). For any questions you may have, please contact the Health Partners Business Development Manager, [Sandy.King@nghs.com](mailto:Sandy.King@nghs.com) or by phone at 770.219.9095.

## ACO Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP)

### What is an ACO/MSSP?

Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers who come together voluntarily, agreeing to be accountable for the quality, cost, and overall care of assigned Medicare patients. Working together to better coordinate care, sharing information, and keeping patients healthy may result in shared savings.

Coordinated care will ensure that patients, especially the chronically ill, get the right care at the right time, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of services. Care coordination across the continuum results in improved efficiency and better outcomes, reducing the fragmented care that often results from a Fee-For-Service payment system.

When an ACO succeeds both in delivering high-quality care and spending health care dollars more wisely, it will share in the savings it achieves for the Medicare program.

### Shared Savings Goals

-   **Better care for patients**
-   **Better health for our communities**
-   **Lower Medicare Fee-for-Service costs through improvements for the health care system**

A Medicare ACO is a patient-centered organization where the patient and providers are true partners in care decisions.

A group of providers and hospitals within Northeast Georgia Health Partners HP2 were approved to participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) MSSP program as an ACO. The HP2 ACO has been assigned more than 20,000 beneficiaries who primarily live in Hall County. Wanda Katich, Executive Director of Health Partners Operations and Program Development, states "This ACO partnership is the next step in today's healthcare transformation to value-based care, and it will help us reach our goal of improving the health in our community and region."

## Annual Wellness Visits

The Annual Wellness Visit is a great opportunity for providers to address preventive health measures for their Medicare patients.

Preventive Health measures include flu and pneumonia immunization status, as well as screenings for BMI, tobacco use, risk for depression, risk for falls, and breast and colon cancer risk. When needs are identified, appropriate interventions and implementation of a follow up plan greatly benefit the patient's quality of life.

### ***Don't Lose your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit Opportunities!***

We want you to know about a trend of outside companies marketing 'quick access' to Medicare beneficiaries to perform their Annual Wellness Visits (AWV). This service is being offered through retail clinics inside local pharmacies.

The AWV focuses on health prevention, early detection of disease, and fosters improved health and continuity of care for the patient. As you know, these visits are also important to the patient's primary care provider, as this is when health updates are documented in the medical record. This documentation is necessary for capturing risk coding and for meeting quality of care measures.

When the beneficiary chooses the outside clinic to perform the AWV and subsequently sees their PCP, reimbursement for the AWV is denied for the PCP since the service has already been rendered to the patient by the retail clinic.

Be mindful to ensure that all Medicare beneficiaries are scheduled with their PCP for their AWV. And make sure to educate them on the benefits of seeing their PCP regularly!

### **Alliant Modifier Update: Assistant Surgeon**

Effective 1/1/2018, Alliant now allows a surgeon to submit under his name with a modifier AS, for the assistant surgeon if he/she is a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist.

- If a claim is received with an AS modifier and the submitting provider is the same as the surgeon, the claim can be allowed and not denied as a duplicate.
- If the claim is received with an 80, 81 or 82 modifier and the submitting provider is the same as the surgeon, the claim **WILL DENY** as a duplicate.

### **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 fax updates to Nicole Drake at 770.219.6609, or email [Nicole.Drake@nghs.com](mailto:Nicole.Drake@nghs.com).