

Northeast Georgia Health Partners **PARTNERS PRESS**

REVISED SUMMER 2018

Welcome

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Please join us in welcoming the following practitioners to the Health Partners Network.

Keith Adkins, ANP– Cardiovascular Disease; The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Nhu-Thao Anico, AGACNP– Cardiology, Heart Failure; The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Michelle Armstrong, ACNP– Cardiovascular Disease; The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Mutale Bingley, LCSW– Social Work; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Pranab Chattopadhyay, MD– Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, The Longstreet Clinic, PC

Sudhakara Chennareddy, MD– Cardiovascular Disease; The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center

James Cobb, FNP– Family Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

James Dallis, MD– Orthopaedic Surgery; The Hospital Authority of Habersham County dba Orthopaedics of North Georgia

Toni Egolum, MD– Pediatrics; Pediatric Associates

Stacy Ekmark, LCSW– Social Work; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Shaakira Ford, LCSW– Social Work; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Cheryl Glover, CPNP– Pediatrics; The Longstreet Clinic, PC

Jordan Hoffman, LCSW– Social Work; MedLink Georgia, Inc.

James Jones, PhD– Psychology; James David Jones, PhD

Cortney Kaniewski, CPNP– Pediatrics; Pediatric Inpatient Medicine, The Longstreet Clinic, PC

Natalya Kovalenko, PA– Pain Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Maria McAllister, LCSW– Social Work; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Robert Morgan, MD– Radiology; Gainesville Radiology Group

Johnathon Nolen, PA– Emergency Medicine; Gainesville Emergency Department Services

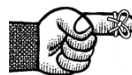
Shanthan Pendem, MD– Critical Care Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Raymond Polk, PA– Internal Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

Katie Pope, LPC– Counseling; Center Point GA, Inc.

Eric Powell, MD– Internal Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group

More new practitioners continued on page 2



Please Remember...



Health Partners requests that your office notify us in writing prior to the effective date of any demographic changes that occur with your providers or practice.

Please submit updates to Nicole Drake by email to Nicole.Drake@nghs.com.



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.

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New Practitioners Continued

Sarah Price, NP– Family Medicine; The Hospital Authority of Habersham County dba PrimeCare
Helio Rodrigues, MD- Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Pamela Roland, FNP– Family Medicine; The Hospital Authority of Habersham County dba PrimeCare
Aliah Sapp, FNP– Pediatrics; The Longstreet Clinic, PC
Shelley Sears, PA– Family Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Mark Senger, DO– Internal Medicine; Hospitalist, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Sally Sfeir, PA– Family Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Vickie Simmons, FNP– Internal Medicine; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Kelli Spivey, FNP– Cardiovascular Disease; Gainesville Heart and Vascular Group
Carol Taylor, LCSW– Counseling; Taylor Family Counseling, LLC
Jeffrey Trawick, DO– Emergency Medicine; Gainesville Emergency Department Services
Christy Van Buren, ENP– Emergency Medicine; Gainesville Emergency Department Services
Gregory Williams, PA– Family Medicine: Northeast Georgia Physicians Group
Sheila Woodhouse, MD– Cardiovascular Disease; Cardiovascular Clinic of North Georgia

Relocations and Changes

MedLink Georgia, Inc's Gainesville Location moved to 520 Jesse Jewell Parkway SE Gainesville, GA 30501

Mushtaq Ahmed, MD and Waheed Bhatti, MD with **MedLink Georgia, Inc.** have added the following location: 137 West Athens Street Suite 103 Winder, GA 30680.

Bradley Auffarth, MD with **The Longstreet Clinic, PC** has added the following location: 23 Tipton Drive Dahlonga, GA 30533.

Geary Bush, MD with **The Longstreet Clinic, PC** has added the following location: 801 Austin Drive Demorest, GA 30535.

Margaret Davis, MD and Anga-Lee Tipton, FNP with **The Longstreet Clinic, PC** have added the following location: 4000 Village View Drive Gainesville, GA 30506.

Samuel Richwine, MD, Puya Davoodi, MD, and Kenneth Walton, MD with **Northeast Georgia Plastic Surgery Associates, PC** can now see patients at Northeast Georgia Medical Center's Wound Healing Center located at 675 White Sulphur Road Gainesville, GA 30501, and may be reached at 770.219.0963.

The Following Practitioners no Longer Participate With Health Partners

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Georgina Kesterson, MD	01-17-18
Megan Foster Webb, PA	01-29-18
Fr'Daniel Boyd, MD	02-01-18
Russell Richardson, MD	02-07-18
Ida Dunn, NP	03-21-18
Sonya Willard, NP	03-21-18
Jessica Kuhn, FNP	03-24-18
Becky Aukamp, AA	03-31-18
Catherine Carlson, PA	04-07-18
Todd Bowden, AA	04-11-18
Hannah Asghar, MD	04-17-18
Cynthia Homel, LMFT	04-19-18
Marcella Ford, NP	04-20-18
Katharine Jurgensen, AGACNP	04-29-18
Heneicia Leflore, PA	05-07-18
Amelia Mathew, MD	05-14-18
Mark Henson, MD	05-25-18
Robert Neuman, MD	06-01-18
Nancy Fisher, NP	06-08-18
John Gorecki, MD	06-12-18
Mark Wilson, MD	06-22-18
Shelley Ray, CNM	06-29-18
Gedion Geatchew, MD	06-30-18
Anumeha Whisenhunt, DO	06-30-18

Health Partners Contract News

Health Partners has had a productive summer adding new employer groups and a new facility provider to the network.

New Employer Contracts

The Price Companies, Inc/Price Fibers, 03-01-18
Burgess Information Systems, 04-01-18
Habersham Board of Commissioners, 07-01-18

New Facility Provider

Twin Lakes Recovery Center can be reached at 800.984.3828. They treat adults ages 18 and above who are struggling with substance abuse and co-occurring behavioral health disorders.

The Following Companies are no Longer with Health Partners

Union General Hospital, 05-01-18
Fab Crew, LLC, 05-31-18
Candler Concrete, 06-01-18
Habersham County Medical Center, 07-01-18

HP2 News

We're excited to announce 36 new practitioners from seven groups to join the HP2 clinically integrated network. HP2 providers are committed to shared goals in performance, quality, value and efficiency aimed at improving patient care and cost outcomes - a necessary strategy to succeed in a value based payment environment.

Advanced Eye Center
Center Point
Gainesville Radiology Group
Gastroenterology Associates of Gainesville
Mountain Medical Specialists
Mountain Medical Specialties
Northeast Georgia Podiatry

HP2 is expanding. If you are interested in learning more about HP2, please contact Sandy King at Sandy.King@nghs.com.

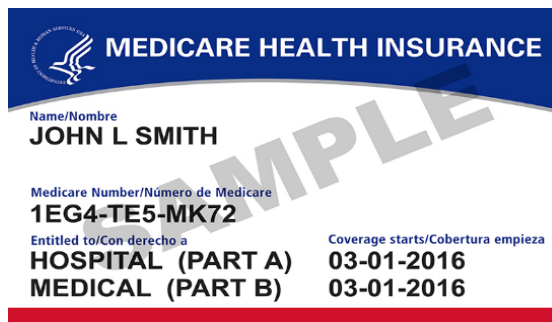
News You Can Use

Transition to Medicare Cards with MBI Numbers

Example MBI: **1EG4-TE5-MK72**

CMS is required to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019 to help fight identity theft and to keep taxpayer dollars safe.

A new, unique **Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)** number will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on each Medicare card. The MBI is confidential like the SSN and should be protected as Personally Identifiable Information. CMS is in the process of mailing new Medicare cards to beneficiaries through April 2019, and people new to Medicare will only get a card with the MBI. Use MBIs right away - as soon as your patients get their new cards. The effective date of the new cards is the date beneficiaries are eligible for Medicare.



To get ready to use the new MBIs, CMS recommends making and internally testing changes to your practice management systems and business processes. Your billing and office staff might have to coordinate their work to make sure your practice is ready. Also, if you use vendors to bill Medicare, contact them to find out about their MBI practice management system changes. CMS will continue to accept the HICN through the transition period, and will process claims submitted with either the HICN or the MBI. This will give you and your billing agencies the chance to change your systems if there are problems with claims you submit using the MBI. After the **transition period ends on January 1, 2020**, with a few exceptions, you'll need to strictly use MBIs on your claims. All HICN-based claims must be received by the January 1, 2020 deadline.

CMS Releases 2019 Proposed MPFS Rule

On July 12, 2018 CMS released the proposed 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) rule. This regulation includes proposed policies affecting Medicare physician payment, quality measure changes for Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) ACOs and Quality Payment Program (QPP) requirements for 2019. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) included annual 0.5 percent increases to the Medicare conversion factor through 2019. This increase as well as other statutory requirements and CMS's proposals results in a projected conversion factor of \$36.05 for 2019, which is a minor increase from the \$35.99 conversion factor included in the 2018 final MPFS. Following are key highlights:

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposals

- Allow providers to select from a few options for documentation of office and outpatient (E/M) services
- Establish a single PFS rate for new patient office/outpatient E/M visit levels 2 through 5 and create a single rate for established patient office/outpatient E/M visit levels 2 through 5, along with introducing add-on codes for primary and specialty care
- Update the MSSP quality measure set, including proposals that would reduce the total MSSP quality measure set from 31 measures to 24 measures. Specifically, CMS proposes to eliminate 10 measures and add two Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Provider and Systems (CAHPS) for ACOs survey measures as well as a new Web Interface measure focused on screening for falls.
- Add the following codes to the list of telehealth services: HCPCS codes G0513 and G0514 (Prolonged preventative service/s)
- Introduce a new chronic care management code (CCM), 994X7, which reflects 30 minutes or more of CCM furnished by a physician or other qualified health care professional
- Establish policies for the continued implementation of the Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) Program for advanced diagnostic imaging services
- Seek comment on the creation of a new bundled episode of care for management and counseling treatment for substance use disorders and methods to identify non-opioid alternatives for pain treatment and management

Quality Payment Program Proposals

- Establish a 30-point performance threshold and 80-point exceptional performance threshold for the Merit Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
- Make changes to the Promoting Interoperability performance category (formerly Advancing Care Information) including requiring the use of 2015 Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) beginning in 2019
- Modify how CMS establishes quality benchmarks to make more fair comparisons in MIPS
- Expand the definition of MIPS eligible clinicians to include physical therapists, occupational therapists, clinical social workers, and clinical psychologists
- Create a new opt-in policy to allow those who meet some, but not all of the MIPS exclusion criteria to voluntarily opt-in to MIPS

Source: NAACOS Membership Newsletter (2018, July 20)