

# Value Connection

Arkansas Health Network's Newsletter

Fall 2019

## A Season of Success - Arkansas Health Network Celebrates Earning \$7.9 Million in Performance Incentives in 2017 - 2018 Performance Years

In the last quarter, Arkansas Health Network has been awarded with performance incentives for three value-based contracts for the 2017 and 2018 calendar years totaling \$7,922,844. This total is comprised of \$6,280,269 awarded for performance in the Medicare Shared Savings Program, \$644,937 for the CHI St. Vincent Health Plan, and \$997,638 for the QualChoice Medicare Advantage Program. Details for each program are shown below. With these sustained successes across multiple populations, AHN has established itself as the most successful CIN in the state of Arkansas. Its results can be attributed to best practices including an engaged network of providers practicing evidence-based guidelines, multidisciplinary care management, and use of clinical and claims data to drive proactive patient outreach and focused quality improvement.

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### **Medicare Shared Savings Program - \$6,280,269 Earned Shared Savings**

In 2018, AHN saved a total of \$12,348,880 and achieved a quality score of 86.5% for its population of 26,434 Medicare beneficiaries. This success is significant because 2018 represents the third time AHN has been awarded shared savings for the MSSP contract.

*Article continued on p. 2*

### **Welcome Dr. Shahid Shafi - Chief Medical Officer**



We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Shahid Shafi to the Arkansas Health Network leadership team as the first full-time Chief Medical Officer and Market Vice President. Dr. Shafi will assume the medical leadership and responsibilities for partnerships with providers including all aspects of clinical quality improvement, hard-wiring of evidence-based guidelines, and support of AHN's strategic initiatives including direct-to-employer and payor collaborations.

Dr. Shafi is a trauma surgeon by training. He obtained his MD degree from Aga Khan University and completed his trauma surgery fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Shafi obtained MPH and MBA degrees from Johns Hopkins University and Southern Methodist University, respectively.

In his professional tenure, he has most recently served as the Medical Director of Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance (a CIN/ACO) in Dallas, TX for 8 years and the CEO of Surgical Group of North Texas, among many other previous leadership roles.

Dr. Shafi has already had an exciting start with AHN and looks forward to collaborating with and learning from our community of providers.



## The Season of Success Continued

Furthermore, 2018 was also AHN's first year as a Track 2 ACO, meaning the CIN was at risk to pay for losses beyond 2%. Of the 15 MSSP ACO's in Arkansas, AHN is the only entity that has progressed to taking downside risk due to its advanced capabilities. AHN's savings during 2018 can be attributed primarily to a 9% and 30% reduction in inpatient and SNF utilization, respectively.

### CHI St. Vincent Health Plan - \$644,937 Earned Shared Savings

In 2018, AHN saved a total of \$1,287,771 and achieved a quality score of 91.7% for its population of 6,656 health plan beneficiaries. This performance year was the second consecutive year that the CIN was at risk to pay for losses on CHI St. Vincent health plan contract beyond 2%. AHN was the only Clinically Integrated Network within its parent company of CommonSpirit Health to earn shared savings by meeting defined cost efficiency and quality improvement targets. Notable trends include a 48% reduction in the rate of readmissions and a 6% reduction in the rate of emergency department visits.

### QualChoice Advantage - \$997,638 Earned Gainshare

In 2017, AHN saved a total of \$997,638 for a population of 1,100 health plan beneficiaries. Through the utilization of AHN's high-value network and care management resources, medical claims were 11% below actuarial projections. The QualChoice Advantage contract ended on December 31, 2018.



As a result of these recent successes, Bob Sarkar, President for AHN was asked to share best practices at a national CommonSpirit Health Population Health Leadership Council (see photo on the left).

### What's Next? - Shared Savings Distributions

AHN leadership and the Board of Managers are actively working on a formula for distributions of a portion of the performance incentives to eligible network providers. Distributions will be shared in early 2020.

## 2020 Direct-to-Employer Contracts

Arkansas Health Network and Arkansas Children's Care Network were selected to provide Clinically Integrated Network services to employees and dependents on the 2020 Arkansas Children's Health Plan in Central and Northwest Arkansas.

In this model, the AHN-ACCN combined high-value network of 2,200 providers will serve as the "Enhanced Network" for health plan members, meaning out-of-pocket costs are lower to see those providers. Additionally, AHN-ACCN will provide proactive, multidisciplinary care management services for the whole family in partnership with community providers.

Additional employer clients for the 2020 year will be announced at a later date once finalized.

## MACRA - AAPM Incentive Payments

CMS announced that beginning in September 2019 they will begin paying Qualified Participants (QPs) their bonuses for being part of an Alternative Payment Model (APM) in the 2017 performance year. The APM Incentive Payment is equal to 5% of the estimated aggregate payment amounts for Medicare Part B covered professional services furnished by the QP.

AHN's Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) ACO Participants will be eligible for APM Incentive Payments in 2020 following the transition to Track 2 in 2018, a downside-risk model.

Participants can verify 2017 incentive payments for their practices on the QPP Portal online later this fall (<https://qpp.cms.gov>).



## PHARMACY CORNER

Welcome AHN Pharmacist, Duexis® Cost Saving Alternatives

### Introducing Pharmacist - K. Claire Lieblong, Pharm D, MBA, BCPS

Across AHN’s value-based contracts, pharmacy consistently appears as a top opportunity due to rising costs and increased utilization. In order to bring focus and expertise to this critical need, Claire Lieblong was hired as AHN’s first full-time pharmacist. After earning her Bachelor’s, PharmD, and MBA degrees, Claire served in a variety of roles at Baptist Health Medical Center including a Clinical Pharmacist, Inpatient Pharmacy Supervisor, and Pharmacy Student Coordinator.



In her role, Claire will work with prescribers, patients, and AHN’s care management and analytics teams to analyze prescription use patterns and provide education on best practices, medication reconciliation, medication therapy management, formulary management, and conversion of brand name to generic drugs. “Pharmacy Corner” will become a regular feature in each Value Connection newsletter to share suggestions for the entire AHN Provider Network to implement.

### Duexis® - Cost Saving Alternatives

Duexis® was approved by the FDA in 2011 to relieve joint pain and to decrease the risk of developing gastric and duodenal ulcers in patients at risk for NSAID-associated ulcers. 1 tablet of Duexis contains 800 mg of ibuprofen with 26.6 mg of famotidine, two drugs easily available over the counter at a significantly lower price point to both employers and patients (as seen in the tables on the right).

Brand Name - Duexis	
Monthly Patient Cost*	Monthly Employer Cost*
\$141.29	\$2,019.74
Generic/OTC - Famotidine, Ibuprofen	
Monthly Patient Cost*	Monthly Employer Cost*
\$9.08	\$2.18

*\*Based on paid claims 09/2018— 08/2019 for the CHI St. Vincent Health Plan*

#### Recommended Dosing:

*For shortest duration consistent with individual patient treatment goals*

- Brand Name Duexis® - 1 tablet, PO 3 times daily
- Generic Alternatives Famotidine 20 mg, PO 3 times daily or Ibuprofen 800 mg, PO 3 times daily

For the CHI St. Vincent Health Plan, savings totaling \$314,738 and \$20,625 were identified for the employer and patient, respectively, by switching from Duexis® to generic alternatives for roughly 13 prescriptions per month.

*For questions or comments, please contact Dr. Shahid Shafi ([sshafi@stvincenthealth.com](mailto:sshafi@stvincenthealth.com))*

## AHN Approves New Participation Standards & Payor Relations Policy

Effective, September 9, 2019, AHN’s Board of Managers approved a new network policy which outlines 1) CIN Participation Standards, (including, but not limited to, licensure, hospital and payor credentials, and information technology capabilities), 2) Participation Standards Exceptions, 3) Participant Approval and Review Process, and 4) Notice and Contracting Obligations for approved providers. In addition, the policy outlines AHN’s opt-out policy for new payor contracts. This policy will be publicly posted in October on AHN’s website at the following link: <http://www.arkansashealthnetwork.com/apply-now-physician>.

*For questions or comments, please contact Rachel Longfellow ([rdlongfellow@stvincenthealth.com](mailto:rdlongfellow@stvincenthealth.com))*

## New Network Participant Additions

Arkansas Health Network welcomes the following practices to its roster of participants. All new participants are reviewed and approved by the AHN Board of Managers.

- ◇ Arkansas Gyn Oncology, PA  
*Gynecological Oncology, Little Rock, (501) 221-3088*
- ◇ Arkansas Anesthesia Associates, PLLC  
*Anesthesiology, Little Rock, (501) 255-0414*
- ◇ Arkansas Foot Care Clinic  
*Podiatry, Russellville, (479) 890-3668*
- ◇ Arkansas Hospice, Inc.  
*Hospice Care, 10 Locations, <https://www.arkansashospice.org>*
- ◇ Arkansas Palliative Care  
*Palliative Care, North Little Rock, (877) 713-2348*
- ◇ Bryant Family Managed Care  
*Family Medicine, Bryant, (501) 847-2835*
- ◇ CABUN Rural Health Service  
*Family Medicine, 6 Locations, (870) 798-4299, <http://www.cabun.org/>*
- ◇ Conway Psychological Assessment Center  
*Clinical Psych, Conway, <https://www.conwaypsychtesting.com/>*
- ◇ Dallas County Medical Center  
*Critical Access Hospital, Fordyce, (870) 352-6300*
- ◇ David Anderson, MD  
*Sleep Medicine, Conway, [www.andersonsleep.com](http://www.andersonsleep.com)*
- ◇ Deer Eye Clinic  
*Ophthalmology, Little Rock, (501) 224-4701*
- ◇ Enhanced Healthcare, LLC  
*Family Medicine, Little Rock, (501) 420-2466*
- ◇ Fair Park Surgery Center (Ophthalmology Only)  
*Ophthalmology Surgery, Little Rock, (501) 907-0970*
- ◇ Fidelity Home Dialysis  
*Dialysis Facility, Little Rock, (501) 217-3888*
- ◇ First US Clinic  
*Internal Medicine, Pine Bluff, (870) 535-4141*
- ◇ Foot & Ankle Associates of Central Arkansas  
*Podiatry, 3 Locations, <http://arkpodiatry.com/>*
- ◇ Holistic Touch Medical Center  
*Chiropractic, Little Rock, (501) 280-0250*
- ◇ Holt Eye Clinic  
*Ophthalmology, Hot Springs, (501) 624-0609*
- ◇ Jefferson Comprehensive Care System  
*Family Medicine, 7 Locations, <http://www.jccsi.org/>*
- ◇ Kathryn Chenault, MD  
*Neurology, Sherwood, (501) 819-0901*
- ◇ Kirkland Family Medical Center, PA  
*Family Medicine, Dardanelle, (470) 229-8000*
- ◇ Little Rock Cancer Clinic, PA  
*Oncology, Little Rock, (501) 661-1822*
- ◇ Little Rock Neurosurgery Clinic  
*Neurological Surgery, Little Rock, (501) 558-0200*
- ◇ May Women's Health Clinic  
*Ob-Gyn, Little Rock, (501) 661-9525*
- ◇ McFarland Eye Clinic, PA  
*Optometry/Ophthalmology, 4 Locations, <https://www.mcfarlandeye.com/>*
- ◇ Nayles Medical Clinic, LLC  
*Family Practice, Little Rock, (870) 371-0055*
- ◇ Nephrology Associates, PA  
*Nephrology, 7 Locations, <http://www.arnapa.com/locations.html>*
- ◇ North Little Rock Primary Care Clinic  
*Family Medicine, North Little Rock, (501) 771-7717*
- ◇ Pope Family Medical Clinic  
*Family Medicine, Sheridan, (870) 942-1301*
- ◇ Rehab Medicine Consultants of Arkansas  
*Physical Medicine, Sherwood, (501) 945-1888*
- ◇ Richard Braley, MD  
*Ophthalmology, Hot Springs, (501) 525-0790*
- ◇ Robert Anderson, DDS  
*Oral Surgeon, Little Rock, (501) 664-3900*
- ◇ Robert T. Love  
*Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Little Rock, (501) 907-7300*
- ◇ SAMA Healthcare Services  
*Family Medicine, El Dorado, (870) 862-2400*
- ◇ Steadman's Physical Therapy  
*Physical Therapy, Hot Springs, (501) 520-0504*

For questions or comments, please contact:

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