

## Unity Health ACO and Others Join AHN MSSP ACO for PY2024

We are excited to be expanding our MSSP ACO for PY2024. [Unity Health](#) has moved away from a private equity-owned ACO to join our successful provider-led AHN MSSP ACO beginning PY2024. In addition, we welcome the following practices:

- Family Practice Center
- College Park Family Clinic
- Betton Family Clinic

Anyone interested in joining our ACO has until the CMS deadline of **August 1st, noon CST**, to do so. Contact Dr. Lubna Maruf ([lubna.maruf@commonspirit.org](mailto:lubna.maruf@commonspirit.org)) for more information.

## Nabholz Construction Becomes AR NetPartners' Newest Client

We're thrilled to share that as of March 1, [Nabholz Construction](#) has become our newest employer-based population health (EPBH) client-partner. With Nabholz, we will manage employees **in Arkansas and outside of the state** through our innovative model of care. We remain committed to harnessing our ongoing success in the EBPH sector to broaden our client base!

## JRMC Joins AHN Provider Network

AHN continues to grow its provider network with the recent addition of [Jefferson Regional Medical Center](#) (JRMC) in Pine Bluff. This **group of 70 providers** will greatly expand our services in Southeast Arkansas.

JRMC also creates opportunities for employer groups based in and around Jefferson County to access and benefit from our clinically integrated model of care. AHN extends the warmest of welcomes to this new group of providers!

### IN THIS ISSUE

MSSP PY2024 Additions

Nabholz Newest AR NetPartners Client

JRMC Joins AHN Provider Network

New Adult Depression EBM Guidelines

Diabetes Medication for Weight Loss

Innovaccer EHR Integration Update

Stellar Health Provider Incentive Program

The Importance of Risk Scoring and HCC Coding

The Opportunity for HCC Coding with AWWs

New Network Participants

AHN Board of Managers Changes

# New Adult Depression EBM\* Guidelines

According to the CDC, 5% of adults (18 or older) in the US experience mental illness each year, equivalent to 43.8 million people. Hence there is a growing need for mental health services nationally.

Primary care providers are often the first to diagnose and treat common mental health issues, including depression and anxiety. In response, **AHN's Clinical Care Committee** approved depression screening and management evidence-based medicine (EBM)\* guidelines in April. These guidelines also include helpful information on depression medication options based on patient conditions and cost effectiveness. These guidelines are now on our website under Evidence-Based Medicine Guidelines and in the "Provider-Only" section of the AHN Connect App.

## Innovaccer Update

Innovaccer is AHN's data analytics platform where all claims, clinical, and ADT data feeds are collected to identify and stratify high and rising-risk patients for proactive care management. We are excited to report that **we are currently integrating 14 EHRs into Innovaccer!** These EHR integrations help us to improve quality scores and care management.

## AHN Partners with **stellar**health for Value-Based Provider Incentive Program

Arkansas Health Network is committed to working with our network of providers to improve the quality of care and health outcomes for their patients. We have partnered with [Stellar Health](#) to bring you a **new incentive program designed to reward you and your staff for assessing care gaps by delivering high-quality care.** This incentive program will support improving Affordable Care Act (ACA) patient outcomes attributed to AHN's Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Collaborative Health Initiative ("CHI").

Through Stellar's web-based application, practices are notified of gaps and opportunities relating to each patient. From there, Stellar provides **monthly incentive payments** to you and your practice upon completion of identified activities.

In the coming weeks, we will contact practices directly to connect you with a Stellar Health representative for an introductory meeting where you will see a demo of the platform and learn more about the incentive program for your practice. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity!

## Pharmacy Corner

### Diabetes Medication for Weight Loss

Providers have recently been prescribing diabetic medications, Ozempic (semaglutide) and Mounjaro (tirzepatide), to non-diabetic patients for weight loss. In response, most insurances are now requiring a diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes and at least 1 fill of another diabetic medication for coverage. With this new requirement, **all weight loss medication will be out of pocket expense for your patients.**

Below is a chart of available weight loss meds for your reference with cost:

Medication	Patient's Cost (Monthly)
Phentermine	\$22
Phentermine and Topiramate	\$197
Orlistat (Xenical 120mg Rx)	\$279
Bupropion-naltrexone	\$516
Saxenda (liraglutide)	\$1367
Wegovy (semaglutide)	\$1400

**Disclaimer:** This information is not intended to dictate or substitute your professional judgment in a particular patient

*If you are interested in your patient specific information, please contact Claire, AHN Pharmacist, at [claire.barlow@commonspirit.org](mailto:claire.barlow@commonspirit.org).*

# New Network Participants

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.*

## **Jefferson Regional Medical Center**, Pine Bluff

For locations see website: [www.jrmmc.org](http://www.jrmmc.org)

*Cardiology  
Family Medicine  
Gastroenterology  
General Surgery  
Hematology & Oncology*

*Infectious Disease  
Internal Medicine  
Neurology  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Occupational Therapy*

*Orthopedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology  
Pediatrics  
Pulmonology  
Radiation Oncology*

*Urology  
Vascular Surgery  
Wound Care*

## **Advanced Care Hospital of White County**

*Long-Term Acute Care*

## **AR Lymphedema of Conway**

*Physical Therapy*

## **Arkansas Extended Care Hospital**

*Long-Term Acute Care*

## **Chenal Urgent Care**

*Urgent Care*

## **College Park Family Clinic**

*Primary Care*

## **Harris & Renshaw Physical Therapy**

*Physical Therapy*

## **Indigo Counseling**

*Behavioral Health*

## **Jacksonville Physical Therapy**

*Physical Therapy*

## **Neurology Clinic of South Arkansas**

*Neurology*

## **OrthoArkansas Spine Institute Procedure Center**

*Orthopedics*

## **Salt Counseling and Consultation**

*Behavioral Health*

## **Simmons Eye Care Clinic**

*Optometry*

## **The Dermatology Clinic**

*Dermatology*

## **The Rock Medical Center**

*Family Practice*

## **Therapy Assessment Center**

*Behavioral Health*

## **Unity Health - Newport**

*Hospital*

## **Urgent Care 360 / Arkansas Pain Care Clinics**

*Urgent Care*

Questions: Tiffani Butler (TButler@stvincenthealth.com)

Roster updates: Priyanka Muppidi (priyanka.muppidi@commonspirit.org)

## Board of Managers Update

We are pleased to announce **Dr. Michael C. Cloud** as the latest addition to the AHN Board of Managers. Dr. Cloud is a PCP with CHI St. Vincent Medical Group - Hot Springs. Welcome to the team!

We also deeply thank **Dr. Kyle Roper** and **Dr. William McColgan** for their service as AHN board members. Thank you for your many years of service and support of quality care in Arkansas.

# Medicare Risk Scores and HCC Coding

## What is Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) Coding?

HCC coding is a risk adjustment model designed to estimate future patient healthcare costs. **It is important to remember that one of the critical goals of HCC coding is to predict the use of Medicare members' medical services in the coming year.** For this reason, HCC diagnosis coding looks at all conditions a patient has been diagnosed with over the past year, which places great importance on recording comorbidities.

Overall, risk adjustment models like HCC bring more clarity to the healthcare system and helps bring reimbursements in line with quality and value rather than volume.

## What is Risk Adjustment Factor (RAF) Scoring?

CMS calculates a risk score, or "risk adjustment factor" (RAF) score, using a formula that considers many factors, including age, sex, race, health status, and use of Medicare services. Each demographic adjustment and HCC carries a score/weight within the model.

### Why is Risk Scoring Important for Providers?

- Risk score used to benchmark spending, which impacts Shared Savings:
  - **Higher score** = higher spending benchmark, higher likelihood of savings
  - **Lower score** = lower spending benchmark, lower likelihood of savings
- Example: Total spending for a patient in a year = \$10,000
  - **Scenario 1** = Low risk score, benchmark \$9000, estimated savings (-\$1000)
  - **Scenario 2** = Higher risk score, benchmark \$11,000, estimated savings \$1000

## Opportunity for HCC Coding with AWWs

**AWVs are an opportune time to update a patient's HCC codes.** Identified ICD-10 codes at the AWW may be cross-walked to an appropriate HCC code which can impact the patient's RAF score. This RAF score may be impactful for ACO benchmarking and Medicare Advantage reimbursement purposes.

### AWV HCPCS Coding:

- G0402** Initial preventive physical examination; face-to-face visit; services limited to new beneficiary during the first 12 months of Medicare enrollment
- G0438** Initial visit; AWW includes personalized prevention plan of service (PPPS)
- G0439** Subsequent visit; AWW includes PPPS

### Advanced Care Planning Codes:

- 99497** Advance care planning; includes explanation and discussion of advance directives, completion of the standard forms by the physician or other qualified healthcare professional; first 30 minutes, face-to-face with patient, family member(s), or surrogate
- 99498** Advanced care planning; each additional 30 minutes; (List separately in addition to the 99497 code)