

# Value Connection

Arkansas Health Network's Newsletter

## Cultivating Success

The initial months of 2024 have been a period of transformation and growth for Arkansas Health Network (AHN). Along with the rest of the country, Arkansas has been experiencing a significant **shift** of beneficiaries from **traditional Medicare** to **Medicare Advantage** (MA). Even in this dynamic landscape, one notable development has been the thoughtful **expansion** of our **Medicare Shared Savings Program** (MSSP) Accountable Care Organization (ACO). We've successfully integrated new partners into our ACO, broadening our network and enhancing our collaborative efforts to deliver high-quality, cost-efficient care to our patient population.

Internally, AHN has undergone a **strategic reorganization** to align more closely with both our short and long-term goals. We've also made changes to our **Board of Managers** as the terms of several members concluded. This transition gave us the opportunity to bring in new members who will contribute to our growth and continued success. We would like to express our gratitude to **Drs. Lisa Sajovitz, David Coussens, David Foster, and Thomas Hollis Jr.** for their dedicated service and support during their time as AHN board members. Succeeding them, we're pleased to welcome these six members to the board:



**Dr. Ann Layton**  
*CHI St. Vincent  
Primary Care*



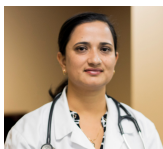
**Dr. Jay Connelley**  
*Connelley Family  
Medical*



**Dr. Zach Tilley**  
*CHI St. Vincent  
Infirmary*



**Dr. Michael Cloud**  
*CHI St. Vincent Hot  
Springs*



**Dr. Junu Bhattarai**  
*CHI St. Vincent Hot  
Springs*



**Dr. Raymond Edwards**  
*Little Rock Diagnostic  
Clinic*

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# Internal Strategic Reorganization

In response to the current healthcare environment, we've initiated a **strategic reorganization** of our clinical operations, placing a stronger emphasis on **quality improvement**. This is designed to streamline operations, enhance efficiency, and foster innovation within our team. As part of this initiative, we've introduced two new roles to our leadership team, filling these positions with highly skilled individuals from within our organization.



**Chastity King** has taken on the position of **Manager of CIN Quality Improvement**, a role that will focus on performance improvement, and provider-facing initiatives.



**Billy Wooten** has been appointed to **Manager of CIN Clinical Informatics**, with responsibilities that include clinical quality improvement, reporting, documentation, and auditing.

# Connelley Family Medical Hero Award

Each year, the **United Hero program**, which is based on feedback from patients, recognizes healthcare professionals throughout the **UnitedHealthcare** network for delivering excellent patient experiences. And this year, **Dr. Jay Connelley** with Connelley Family Medical, received this prestigious award! Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.



# Pharmacy Corner

## Statin Therapy with Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes

Despite controlled glucose levels, diabetics have a higher risk of **Atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases (ASCVD)**. A major risk factor for ASCVD is **LDL cholesterol**.

Statins are the drug of choice for reducing LDL cholesterol. Combining statin therapy with lifestyle and risk factor management can prevent or delay cardiovascular conditions.

For patients with both **diabetes and ASCVD**, using moderate or high-intensity PCSK9 inhibitor statins is advisable if deemed medically appropriate and tolerable.

A statin drug allergy is NOT a valid exclusion. Annual documentation of any of the following conditions is required for excluding a patient due to a drug allergy. This does not have to be actively occurring in the year:

- Myalgia (M79.10-M79.12, M79.18)
- Myositis (M60.80-M60.90)
- Myopathy (G72.0, G72.9)
- Rhabdomyolysis (M62.82)

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

**Disclaimer:** This information is not intended to dictate/ substitute your professional judgment with a patient.

# Eclipse Resources

In anticipation of the **total solar eclipse** on **April 8, 2024**, CHI St. Vincent has gathered essential resources and safety tips for experiencing this momentous occasion safely. The relevant information is available [here](#).

# Update AHN with Your Provider Information

To maintain **network integrity**, we need **your help** to ensure that we are notified of any changes in information about your providers. This process is crucial for preventing issues related to out-of-network billing, correctly attributing patients, and quality reporting.

You can submit updates to **Millie Franklin**, Provider Network Operations Specialist, [via email](#) in the following ways:

- **Checking your current provider roster** - Request to receive a list of the providers we currently have listed for your practice
- **Adding new providers or practices** - Complete an Additional Practice or Provider form [available for download](#) on our website
- **Removing providers or updating provider info** - Provide term dates and/or changes to provider information (email, phone number, practice location, credentials, etc.)

# Sarkar to be Panelist at Becker's Meeting

Our President & CEO Bob Sarkar will be a distinguished panelist at **Becker's Healthcare 14th Annual Hospital Meeting** on April 10th. He will participate in a discussion focused on "Health System Partnerships in the Next 12 Months: What is Most Valuable?"

Leading up to this event, Bob contributed to a speaker perspectives article about the changing face of leadership. You can read his insights [here!](#)

# Hafeezah Brooks Promotion



Late last year, Hafeezah Brooks was promoted to Market Director of CIN Care Management. Brooks joined AHN in 2013 as an RN Population Health Coach and then moved to the role of Manager of Population Health in 2019. She has 30+ years of nursing experience in various areas, including population health and care management. In her role, Hafeezah works closely with the Market Vice President of Population Health, with oversight of clinical care management functions. Join us in congratulating Hafeezah on her new role!

# Thank you to our Social Workers!



For **Social Worker Month**, we want to celebrate our amazing and dedicated team of Social Workers. Gregory, Rebecca, Shelley, and our newest social worker April! They assist AHN with improving health care quality, connecting members to the community, and addressing the multifaceted care needs of our clients. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to enriching the lives of others.

Follow us on **LinkedIn** for weekly updates

arkansas-health-network

# 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.

**Argenta Counseling & Wellness**  
*Behavioral Health*

**Arkansas Family Eye Care of Malvern**  
*Optometry*

**Arkansas Pelvic Health**  
*Physical Therapy (PT/OT)*

**Beyond Speech Learning Center**  
*Speech and occupational therapy (SLP/OT)*

**Central Arkansas Foot & Ankle Specialists**  
*Podiatry*

**Hot Springs Physical Medicine**  
*Physical Therapy*

**Kidsource Therapy**  
*Pediatric Therapy (PT, OT, SLP, Feeding)*

**Psychiatry Arkansas**  
*Behavioral Health*

**Reach Therapy**  
*Pediatric Therapy (PT, OT, SLP)*

**River Valley Therapy & Sports Medicine**  
*Physical Therapy (PT/OT)*

**Conway Endoscopy Center**  
*Endoscopy Center*

**Endoscopy Center of Little Rock**  
*Endoscopy Center*

**Gastro-Intestinal Center**  
*Endoscopy Center*

Questions: Tiffani Butler ([TButler@stvincenthealth.com](mailto:TButler@stvincenthealth.com))  
Roster updates: Millie Franklin ([mildred.franklin@commonspirit.org](mailto:mildred.franklin@commonspirit.org))

## Annual Wellness Visits & CEU Opportunity

The Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is a great tool for Primary Care Providers participating in our MSSP ACO and their patients insured through Medicare. Patients should receive their AWV before the end of each year, and getting a head start is a great way to ensure **care gap closure** and accurate **risk recapture**.

**Arkansas Blue Medicare** is offering several **CEU webinars** over the next few months that focus on risk adjustment, quality, documentation, and coding. AAPC has approved each webinar for 1 CEU and there is no cost to attend. Click [here](#) for more information.



[Suggestions for future content that you'd like our marketing team to review?](#)