



Inside Population Health Resolutions



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Welcome to the January 2025 newsletter edition. We are highlighting major CMS-HCC V28 coding changes, as well as Annual Wellness Visit best practices. You will find resources on diabetes self-management services, cervical cancer screenings, maternal health, and CVD awareness. And for those affected, Medicaid Part D updates.

We had a phenomenal 2024. Thank you and your practice for being part of it. Highlights include:

- Achieved nearly \$25 million in VBC revenue.
- More than \$17 million in shared savings and quality bonuses paid to SQCN and SACO providers. (See our photos below.)
- SACO ranked 2nd in the nation in highest gross savings of an ACO (in its initial agreement period).
- Network clinicians grew from 3,900 to 4,500:

- 161 new participating clinicians
- 412 clinicians joined active SQCN practices

Welcome to our new practices:

- Hygge Wellness, PLLC
- OBHG Virginia, LLC
- Velocity Urgent Care
- Jordan Young Institute
- Olde Towne Medical and Dental
- Coastal Virginia Mental Health

In 2025, we will continue to:

- Expand our network with value-based care practices in SQCN.
- Elevate high performing SQCN practices into SACO.
- Increase incentive revenue.
- Strengthen data sharing.

If you are a highly engaged and high performing SQCN and/or SACO independent practice and in need of an EHR system, please inquire about our Epic Community Connect program. Converting to Sentara Community Connect will aid in reporting performance and integrated patient care. Sentara will pay up to 85% of your implementation and 75% of ongoing maintenance costs. Send us an [email](#) for more information.

We're glad you're here!



Meet the Measures: Annual Wellness Visit

Medicare Annual Wellness Visits (AWVs) are important [yearly preventive visits](#) that allow for clinicians to develop, in partnership with their patients, a coordinated care plan to address health risks, prevention and screening, functional deficits, and advanced care planning. AWVs are meant to be team-based visits, and have been shown to increase preventive services, reduce healthcare costs, and improve performance on quality measures.

Ways to help your patients while improving your quality score:

- **Develop a high functioning team to support AWV workflows.**
Focus your team and practice on scheduling AWVs in the first quarter of the year, as this helps set the plan for your patient's care and will help your metric performance throughout the year.
- **Maximize appropriate “add on” billing** for preventive and E&M services performed.
- **Use the AWV as an opportunity to update the patient problem list** with the most specific ICD-10 diagnoses to better reflect the complexity of your exam.
- **Remind patients they are eligible for free AWVs** (unless other services are performed).
- **Ask patients to complete the health risk assessment (HRA)** ahead of the visit.

- After the initial visit, **consider nurse-led AWVs**. (The initial visit must be conducted by the PCP and is an in-person visit.)

A SQCN licensed staff member can help complete AWV, TCM, and CCM services for your SQCN attributed patients, improving your practice performance while increasing your billing revenue. [Reach out to us](#) for more information on how we can help your patients. Here is a [tip sheet you can give your patients on the importance of AWVs](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- The **Adult PCPC** meeting is January 16 from 7-8 a.m.
- The **Pediatric PCPC** meeting is January 21 from 6-7 p.m.
- The **SACO Primary Care Leadership** meeting is January 17 from 7-8 a.m.
- The **Practice Managers** meeting is January 22 at 12:15 p.m.

Impact Scorecards

Avoidable ED visits (rate per 1,000) remain as our utilization metric, with several quality metrics for adult and pediatric populations. These metrics are scored for each practice, and the total score is expressed as 30-100%. That performance score will be combined with attribution to determine distributions. The report is updated monthly to track your practice's performance.

[LINK TO SCORECARD](#)

HCC Coding Tips: Major CMS-HCC V28 updates

In V28 there are several changes:

- Remove 2,294 diagnosis codes
- Add 268 diagnosis codes
- Change how HCCs are mapped

Click on the button below for the most used codes in primary care that will be impacted. We will continue to share information as it becomes available

from CMS. Contact our [HCC coding team](#) with any questions.

MAJOR CMS-HCC V28 UPDATES



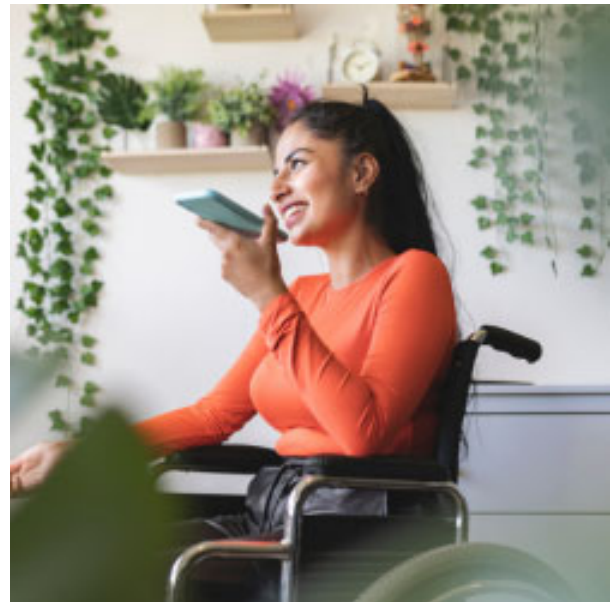
The graphic features the ACOG logo at the top left. Below it, the text "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY" is written in large, bold, green letters. Underneath, it says "— JANUARY 23, 2025 —" and "KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE" in smaller green letters. The word "LIVES" is prominently displayed in large, white, bold letters in the center. The background is a light blue and green gradient with a repeating pattern of the words "EQUITY", "REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM", "FUTURES", "COMMUNITIES", "SECURITY", "AUTONOMY", and "LIVES" in small, light green text.

Maternal health awareness

This January 23, join the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) community in raising awareness about maternal and reproductive health care in the U.S. You can find official resources and information [here](#).

Diabetes self-management services

Do you have patients with diabetes who need extra support? Our no-cost [self-management program](#) can help with resources and education, as a partner with your healthcare team. Contact our [diabetes educators](#) for more information.



American Heart Association®



Go Red Day: Feb. 7

A few facts about CVD: Nearly 45% of women ages 20+ are living with some form. Unique life stages, such as pregnancy and menopause, put women at an increased risk for CVD. [Go Red](#) to help save more women's lives.

Hospice Myth of the Month

Myth: Hospice is only for cancer patients.

Fact: Hospice care is available to all terminally ill individuals and their families, regardless of diagnosis. Some of the most common non-cancer diagnoses are congestive heart failure, dementia, chronic lung disease, failure to thrive, or other conditions

Source: [Sentara Hospice Services](#)

Health Equity Corner: Henrietta Lacks and cervical cancer

[Henrietta Lacks](#) was a young black woman from Baltimore. Her case was a pivotal moment in both the history of medical research and the ethical considerations surrounding consent.

In 1951, her cervical cancer cells were taken without her knowledge or consent, a practice that was legal at the time. These cells, later named HeLa cells, became the first immortal human cell line, meaning they could divide endlessly in laboratory conditions, providing a vital resource for scientists. HeLa cells have been instrumental in numerous medical breakthroughs, from testing the effects of drugs and toxins to developing vaccines like those for polio and COVID-19. However, the manner in which

her cells were collected—without informed consent and without compensation or recognition to her family—has sparked ongoing debates about the rights of patients and the need for ethical standards in research.

The legacy of Henrietta Lacks highlights the importance of ethical guidelines in biomedical research, particularly concerning informed consent and the rights of individuals whose biological materials are used in studies.

The impact of Henrietta Lacks' case on consent laws and public awareness of cervical cancer and its prevention has been profound. Her cells directly contributed to breakthroughs in cancer research, including understanding the role of the human papillomavirus (HPV) in cervical cancer, which eventually led to the development of the HPV vaccine.

Key background and impact

Informed consent and ethical practices: Henrietta Lacks' cells were taken without her knowledge or consent, leading to changes in research ethics and informed consent laws.

The HeLa cell's role in science: HeLa cells contributed to major medical advancements, including the polio and COVID-19 vaccines, cancer treatments, and genetic research.

Cervical cancer awareness: Lacks' cells played a key role in discovering the link between HPV and cervical cancer, leading to the development of the HPV vaccine, which has been crucial in reducing cervical cancer rates globally.

Impact on consent laws: The unethical handling of Lacks' cells led to stronger regulations on informed consent and patient rights in medical research.

Global health impact: The knowledge gained from HeLa cells continues to influence the fight against cancer, particularly in the development of early screening methods and vaccines like the HPV vaccine, which targets the most common cause of cervical cancer.

Pharmacy Highlights: Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

Starting in 2025, the Inflation Reduction Act requires all Medicare prescription drug plans (Medicare Part D plans)—including both standalone Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage—to offer enrollees the option to pay out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in the form of capped monthly installment payments instead of all at once at the pharmacy.

Find much more information and instructions at the [CMS site](#) and this [CMS guidance sheet](#).

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