

MetroWest AHO

NEWSLETTER



TACO (CHACO)

Time sensitive communication was recently emailed and mailed to you regarding the status of TACO (formally CHACO), our Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO. Our strategic position in these programs can change rapidly based on forces in healthcare beyond our control. Given all the uncertainty in healthcare, both locally and nationally, we are considering ending TACO after the 2017 year, 1 year earlier than originally planned and putting into action other safe harbor options for our physicians in 2018. There are **immediate action items required on your part** to ensure that you are eligible for all options in 2018. If you did not receive the communication, please contact me at finamangan@mwmc.com immediately. Please let me know if you have any questions.

MWCARES

It is with deep regret that we announce the closing of MWCARES effective August 31, 2017. The Board has been evaluating all programs we offer our membership. After careful review, it was determined that the program costs vs. value it was providing to our members was not sufficient to continue. A direct communication will be sent to all practices regarding MWCARES WIND DOWN plan. HR will work directly with employees affected by this decision. We want to recognize Jan Derby, Srdjan Perisic and their team for all their hard work and dedication serving our patients.

NEW LABORATORY SERVICE

BioReference Labs recently opened an office at 655 Concord Street, Framingham. Hours are Monday – Friday from 7 am – 5:30 pm and open through lunch. They will also be opening an office at 67 Union Street in Natick, Suite #505A. Same hours of operation. This is an FYI as an additional option for patients requiring lab work.

CODING OPPORTUNITIES - SRDJAN PERISIC

Please see link below on tips on how to maximize practice work flow and new coding opportunities. <http://medicaleconomics.modernmedicine.com/medical-economics/news/tips-control-practice-cash-flow>

A FOND FAREWELL

Dr. James Shepard passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2017 at Leonard Morse Hospital. He was an otolaryngologist for more than 40 years at LM and a member of our Physician Organization until his resignation. He will be fondly remembered by his friends and colleagues. A donation in his memory has been made to the Alzheimer's Association.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Rudolph Agosti, MD, Psychiatry
Angel Johnson, MD, OB/GYN-Female Pelvic Medicine
Tiffany Kolniak, MD, Internal Medicine

ANSWERING SERVICE

We understand that many of our physicians were using the MetroWest Medical Center answering service and that contract is ending. A request has been sent to our membership asking which answering service they use. Below is a list of answering services we have gathered so far.

Service Name	Contact Info	Costs	Current Users/Notes
BPE Inc.	Michael Shaw- 978-231-8950	-\$75/month base monthly charge for 300 minutes. -Additional minutes 72 cents each -\$10.00 base charge for additional physicians	Dr. Thulin, MW Physician Services, St. Vincent's Physician Services.
Best Message Center	Carolyn or Linda - 800-970-7777	-1 physician office \$215.00 unlimited -2 physician office \$325.00 unlimited -3 physician office \$450.00 unlimited -4 or more \$40.00 per physician -unlimited service paging, email, faxing all included. -secure texting \$8.50 per cell phone	Dr. Silverman, Dr. Kivua, Dr. Chen, Dr. Agarwal, Dr. Jacobson, and Dr. Martin. *Received many recommendations.
Connective Live Answering Service (VP Connections)	Bill Campbell - 508-320-2121 John Campbell - 508-202-7003 Kelly Smythe - 313-588-1340	-Group rates: \$3.85/minute - no package - pay for what you use. -Individual rates: \$49.99 for 40 min., \$149.99 for 150 min., etc.	Orthopedic New England
Critical Alert *Pager Company, not an answering service	1-877-205-0280 - Identify as a MW physician when calling.	-Pricing based on size of account and type of pager - please call for pricing.	*Some Answering Services only use cell phones to page physicians and do not provide pagers.

SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

We are recommending that our physicians complete an Annual Security Risk Assessments (SRA). This is required to report Advancing Care Information under the **MIPS track under MACRA**. We feel physicians should continue to do this annually regardless of MACRA track, because of uncertainty about having to report MIPS in the future.