



Western Physicians' Alliance



NEWSLETTER

July 2012

NEXT STEPS ANNOUNCED FOR PCP INITIATIVES

Saint Mary's HealthFirst has announced an update on the Primary Care Provider (PCP) Clinical and Administrative Initiative. This program allows you to work collaboratively to improve patient care through verification of performance related to selected HEDIS quality measures, generic prescribing, administrative efficiencies, and the adoption and use of technology. The next step in the program is returning the Verification Form by Friday, August 3 along with any additional required documentation. Then Saint Mary's HealthFirst will analyze your results and determine your program payment. Program payments are expected to be paid in September 2012.

Once again your involvement demonstrates your ability to provide exceptional care for your patients through Saint Mary's HealthFirst.

Stage 2 Meaningful Use Delay

The American Medical Association (AMA) announced its support for the decision the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) made in delaying the deadline for Stage 2 requirements of Meaningful Use (MU) until 2014. In an effort to make adoption of health information technology (health IT) easier, HHS announced that it plans to delay MU requirements for the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program. Physicians who successfully participated in the program in 2011 now have until 2014 to meet Stage 2 requirements. Under the program's previous requirements, physicians who participated in Stage 1 during 2011 would have to meet the Stage 2 requirements in 2013, a full year before those who begin participating in 2012. These delays provide your practice additional time to prepare for health IT implementation.

Welcome Dr. Carl Heard, as SMHP New Medical Director

WPA would like to welcome Carl Heard, MD, MMM as Saint Mary's Health Plans' new Medical Director.

Prior to joining Saint Mary's HealthPlans, he pursued research in the patient centered medical home model of care in collaboration with the University of California San Francisco Center for Excellence in Primary Care.

Throughout his career Dr. Heard has not only maintained an active direct patient care role, but has also sought additional training in clinical leadership.

Western Physicians' Alliance
6490 South McCarran Blvd., C-24
Reno, Nevada 89509

Current Resident or

WPA IT Survey – Fax Back to 775-333-0229

CONTACT NAME: _____

PRACTICE NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

SPECIALTY: _____

HOW MANY PHYSICIANS WORK IN THE PRACTICE? _____

HOW MANY APNs/PAs WORK IN THE PRACTICE? _____

PLEASE LIST THE NAME OF ANY APPLICATIONS YOU USE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Practice Management System: _____

E-Prescribing: _____

Electronic Medical Record: _____

Patient Registry: _____

ARE YOU LOOKING TO REPLACE OR PURCHASE NEW TECHNOLOGY?

Within 3 months: _____ **6-12 months:** _____

3-6 months: _____ **12 months:** _____

ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN ANY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS?

Meaningful Use: _____

E-Prescribing: _____

PRQS: _____

PCMH: _____

Other: _____