



CONNECTED  
CARE PARTNERS

# CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks much for your participation in Connected Care Partners over the past year. We look forward to your continued involvement in north Mississippi's first clinically integrated network. Connected Care Partners is committed to improving the patient experience, improving the health of the network's patient population, reducing the cost of health care and improving the work-life balance of health care providers.

Over the past year, Connected Care Partners started work in all of these areas. Here are just a few examples of our ongoing efforts to integrate care across the community:

1. Establishment of collectively agreed upon quality metrics for five specialties to ensure we are adhering to evidence-based guidelines and providing the highest quality of care.
2. Development of a provider portal that allows easy access to valuable resources such as UptoDate and Continuing Medical Education, as well as medical records of patients seen by a variety of specialists and primary care providers in both inpatient and ambulatory settings.
3. The establishment of a framework for value-based contracts with commercial health plans. These contracts will assist Connected Care Partners providers in navigating the transition from volume to value.
4. Development of infrastructure to help support transitions for patients served by Connected Care Partners.
5. Informative newsletters on relative topics such as colorectal screening, high-risk medications and appropriate utilization of imaging for low back pain.

We look forward to your continued participation in the Connected Care Partners network. We will continue to build upon the foundational steps that have occurred over the past year to ensure we meet the goals of the network and improve the care of patients across our region.

Best,  
Lee Greer, M.D.  
President  
Connected Care Partners

Bo Calhoun, M.D.  
Chairman of the Board  
Connected Care Partners

---

## Quality Metrics

This year, the quality committee of Connected Care Partners has worked on developing quality metrics for primary care providers. We will focus our initial energies on diabetic care and preventive health. For diabetics, we will monitor obtainment of an annual A1c and nephropathy screening, along with a diabetic eye exam being performed at least every two years.

In addition, patients age 50-75 will be monitored for colorectal screening, and women age 50-74 will be followed for mammogram usage. Initially, we will use claims-based data for provider scorecards so they can monitor their progress in these important measures. Over the next year, we expect to see improvement in all of these measures as we strive to improve the care of patients in the clinically integrated network.

---

## MACRA

The Quality Payment Program improves Medicare by helping clinicians focus on care, quality, and the one thing that matters most - making patients healthier. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) ended the Sustainable Growth Rate formula. Clinicians can choose how to participate based on practice size, specialty, location, or patient population. The Quality Payment Program has two tracks: (a) Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) or (b) The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). If the provider qualifies for an Advanced APM, through Medicare Part B, they may earn an incentive payment for participating in an innovative payment model. If the provider participates in MIPS, they will earn a performance-based payment adjustment.

Eligible clinicians for MIPS 2017 include physicians, physicians, assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Depending on the data submitted by March 31, 2018, the 2019 Medicare payments will be positive, negative, or neutral adjustments. The ultimate goal for our organization is to achieve the maximum positive payment adjustment for each provider.

As you determine your measures and prepare to submit data to CMS, please contact North Mississippi Medical Clinics' Best Practices Department

[For more information on MACRA, please click here](#)

---

## NMHS Wellness Visits

This year NMHS has offered the opportunity for employees and spouses covered by the health plan to take advantage of a wellness visit which includes a comprehensive assessment, laboratory studies, preventive services and immunizations. Beneficiaries may complete this visit until October 31, 2017. As a provider within Connected Care Partners, we wanted to highlight some of the key misconceptions regarding the wellness visit:

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Facts</b>
Visit and lab required	Visit required and lab is recommended for premium credit in 2018.
Provider can only address wellness needs at visit	Provider must code the visit to a wellness code, but can also address chronic health conditions and refills.
Any labs ordered by the provider are covered at 100 percent.	Only Fasting Glucose and Lipid panel are covered at 100 percent. All other labs will be subject to copay/coinsurance.

---

## Contact Us

Connected Care Partners  
808 Varsity Drive  
Tupelo, MS 38801  
Phone: (662) 377-7811  
[www.ccpartnerscin.com](http://www.ccpartnerscin.com)

### Contacts:

Lee Greer, M.D., [lgreer@nmhs.net](mailto:lgreer@nmhs.net)  
C.K. White, M.D., [ckwhite@nmhs.net](mailto:ckwhite@nmhs.net)  
Bo Calhoun, M.D., [bcalhoun@nmhs.net](mailto:bcalhoun@nmhs.net)  
Alison Gilbert, [alallen1@nmhs.net](mailto:alallen1@nmhs.net)

To add someone to the distribution list, please email [alallen1@nmhs.net](mailto:alallen1@nmhs.net)