

A Message from Our President

As we approach the mid-point of the 2023 performance year, I thought I'd take a moment to share some observations.

As you are aware, COVID prompted a public health emergency ("PHE") that most notably impacted our ACO by allowing skilled nursing facilities to access a beneficiary's Medicare Part A benefit without a three-day hospital stay. That dynamic created a dramatic and unprecedented increase in our Medicare Part A skilled utilization, resulting in nearly \$30 million in excess costs in 2022 alone! The good news is that with the conclusion of PHE on May 11, 2023, we see utilization of this benefit has decreased over 40 percent and returning to levels observed prior to the pandemic. We are confident this will help us to achieve our targeted savings rate for 2023, assuming the rate of inpatient hospitalization does not increase dramatically (which we believe is unlikely at this stage).

Regarding performance year 2022 results, LTC ACO will receive our reconciliation from CMS mid-August. While we expect to generate shared savings, the amount is projected to be distinctively less than originally modeled due to lower than expected beneficiary attribution, a lower than projected benchmark due to lower Medicare utilization and cost trends, and the significant increase in the Medicare Part A skilled utilization mentioned above. Once the reconciliation is received and assuming LTC ACO achieves shared savings, Medicare will typically release payment by mid-September. Upon receipt, provider-specific shared savings, where earned, will be distributed within 30 days.

Thank you again for your continued participation and support of LTC ACO and the care you provide your patients.

Best Regards,



Jason Feuerman
President



**For more updates and industry insights,
follow us on social media.**

FOLLOW
US ON **LinkedIn**



linkedin.com/company/ltc-aco

Annual Wellness Visits

Beneficiaries eligible for the Hemoglobin A1C Measure or Controlling High Blood Pressure Measure must have an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) completed and billed during the 2023 Performance Year (1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023) in order to be included in the measures' denominator.

The only two AWV codes that are billable are billable in our setting are:

- ♦ G0438 (includes a personalized prevention plan of service, initial visit)
- ♦ G0439 (includes a personalized prevention plan of service, subsequent visit)

WHEN CAN AN AWV BE COMPLETED?

An AWV code is billable once every 12 months and not based on the calendar year.

- » A subsequent AWV cannot be completed sooner than the first day of the same month the following year. For example, if an initial or subsequent AWV was completed on November 25, 2022, then it can be completed no sooner than November 1, 2023. If a provider were to bill an AWV prior to November 1, 2023, then that claim would be denied and not be paid as the max already been benefits have met.

The AWV is 100% reimbursed by Medicare so there is no secondary or beneficiary responsibility.

Remember that Medicare covers the Welcome to Medicare checkup for each beneficiary but no longer covers an Annual H&P.

WHO CAN COMPLETE AN AWV?

If the beneficiary has Part B and has been a Medicare recipient for 12 months, any provider can complete the AWV.

COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT AND CARE PLAN SERVICES¹

An AWV is the perfect time to look for signs of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. Signs of cognitive impairment include trouble remembering, learning new things, concentrating, managing finances, or making decisions about everyday life. Other conditions (like depression, anxiety, and delirium) can also cause confusion, so it's important to help beneficiaries understand why they may be having symptoms.

¹ <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/cognitive-assessment-care-plan-services>

EARLY DETECTION

through cognitive
assessments can
significantly improve
patient outcomes and
quality of life.



Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
..... JUNE 2023

Beneficiary Success Stories at LTC ACO

THE POWER OF ANNUAL WELLNESS VISITS

LTC ACO's focus on conducting Annual Wellness Visits (AWVs) has played a role in revitalizing our Practices commitment to preventive care, particularly for our younger long-term care residents. For example, an experience with a 58-year-old female patient exemplifies the impact of this approach.

During her AWV, her healthcare provider discovered the necessity for a mammogram and a bone density test—screenings that might have been overlooked without the emphasis on AWVs. This outcome highlights the importance of addressing the unique healthcare needs of younger long-term care residents, ensuring they receive age and risk factor-appropriate screenings.

This a testament to the success of the preventive care initiatives in place, which help provide comprehensive and personalized care for all residents, regardless of age.

SHARE YOUR BENEFICIARY SUCCESS STORIES!

Here at LTC ACO, we value cultivating discussion that empower our clinical team to provide exceptional care. If you have witnessed remarkable transformations and outstanding outcomes, please contact your organization's Partner Engagement Manager. We value your dedication in making a meaningful difference in the lives of our beneficiaries, and your contributions will aid the collective knowledge of our community and reinforce our commitment to excellence.

LTC ACO IN THE NEWS

FOLLOW US ON **LinkedIn**



Using AI to Improve Care Quality in Long-Term Care Residents

Replay our collaborative webinar with ClosedLoop to gain valuable insights on LTC ACO using AI to address major cost drivers in the LTC population.

[WATCH THE WEBINAR »](#)

 **Skilled Nursing News**

CEO of LTC ACO: Too Many SNFs Still 'Missing Out on Substantial Shared Savings,' Despite Value-Based Care Growth

[LEARN MORE »](#)

 **McKnight's**
Long-Term Care News

Accelerating the shift to value-based care in LTC settings

[LEARN MORE »](#)