

NOW! IS THE TIME

Care Connect Demonstrations for Community Physicians

For these past two years this column has described the changing landscape of third party physician payment: migrating from “fee for service” (F4S) to “pay for performance” (P4P). We explained how our national health care “system” increases in complexity; almost month to month; not only for providers but patients, and the threatened fragmentation of care resulting therefrom.

Previous articles have related how GRIPA, your organization, has developed a nationally recognized Clinical Integration program to provide a framework of: Care Management, information technology, data analysis around disease populations and physician reporting based on clinical measures derived from evidence-based guidelines composed by your fellow GRIPA physicians. This positions us, and our patients, to survive and potentially thrive in this new environment.

GRIPA, led by physician members, recently developed the ACMP (Accountable Care Medical Program) to aid physicians in transitioning from F4S to P4P by providing the Patient Outreach Report to identify those of our patients in need of care as indicated by the clinical guidelines. This approach facilitates filling open scheduling slots while simultaneously generating data, documenting desired performance, which can then be presented in P4P contract negotiations to produce improved reimbursement rates to physicians.

GRIPA, in conjunction with physicians and RGHS leadership, is assembling work teams to improve the quality of care provided as well as address cost: value. These teams will focus on using currently available technology to share relevant and actionable data, implement care management to support patients and physicians, and initiate discussions resulting in plans directed toward value enhancement.

None of this is going to happen without a crucial element...us and our active engagement in utilizing these tools. The pace and complexity of health care requires it.

GRIPA, your organization, is on the verge of completing contract negotiations for a significant patient population that will provide the funding to award physicians for quality and efficient care. This contract involves clinical measures closely aligned to the ACMP. It will also reward us for addressing: admission rates, unnecessary re-admissions, pharmacy costs, and network access.

Success with this agreement will require us to: focus on performance (individually and as a participating member of the larger network), effectively and efficiently communicate (Care Connect/EMR), adopt and adapt to information technology and the requisite work flow changes, and contribute feedback on what is working and how to improve what is not.

GRIPA will be scheduling “town meetings”, in the coming months, to provide more details around this contract.

RGHS has partnered with the Greater Rochester Independent Practice Association (GRIPA) to offer a private-practice version of Care Connect to our community practice partners. Community-based practices that choose Care Connect will experience an EMR and Practice Management system that is fully integrated and compatible with RGHS’ system – enabling seamless management of patient records, lab results, billing and scheduling across both the hospital and private practice settings. Additionally, community physicians will benefit from:

- A limited-time RGHS subsidy to offset some of the EMR costs
- Immediate, automatic availability of patient information
- Full implementation support and training
- Simpler, faster and more accurate documentation
- Future upgrades at no additional cost, including ICD-10
- Increased patient satisfaction
- Ability to share patient data with ease
- Certification and support to achieve Meaningful Use
- More efficient practice management processes
- Simplified, less costly hardware management
- Automatic E-prescribing functionality

If you have any questions about our Care Connect Community Physician Program offering, or know a practice you would like to recommend as an ideal candidate for the Care Connect system, please call Kelly Taddeo, Vice President of GRIPA Provider Relations to at 585-922-1543.

Come! Be informed! Get involved!
Our future depends on it.

