Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield and Meridian Health Collaborate

The Board of Meridian Health Partners recently approved a Program Agreement with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey for their new OMNIA product.

Horizon’s OMNIA product will be offered to several commercial business segments, including: individuals; small groups (on and off the Health Insurance Exchange); large groups, both fully insured and self-insured; and the state benefit plan. According to Horizon, consumers who choose their OMNIA plan can expect premiums that are 15 percent less expensive than other Horizon plans. In addition, Horizon OMNIA’s members will incur lower out-of-pocket expenses when they utilize Meridian facilities and Meridian Health Partners’ physicians.

Physicians that are participating providers in Meridian Health Partners:

- Will be designated as Tier 1 providers with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield’s OMNIA product
- Will be eligible to participate in shared savings, quality bonuses, and care coordination payments
- Your current negotiated fee schedule with Horizon will not change

If you have any questions about our collaboration or Horizon’s OMNIA product, please contact Amy Gallagher (Ocean County) at amgallagher@meridianhealth.com or 732.765.6335, or Kerry Kenna (Monmouth County) at kkenna@meridianhealth.com or 732.765.6336.

Joining Meridian Health Partners is easy and there is no additional cost to you. More details can be found on the Physician Extranet at MeridianHealthDoctor.com/MHP. Contact James Clarke, M.D., at jclarke@meridianhealth.com or 732.765.6318 if you have any questions.

James Clarke, M.D., Appointed Vice President of Physician and Quality Network Services/Medical Director

Dr. Clarke is well-known to the Meridian Health family with more than 30 years of clinical medical practice and executive experience. He will continue to work with the Meridian Medical Group Primary Care division, but his role will be expanded to include the responsibility of Meridian’s network development and quality performance of Meridian Health Partners (MHP). Dr. Clarke will continue to focus on patient and physician interactions, as well as collaborations within the primary and specialty network in MHP while advancing integration and quality incentives mutually beneficial to these partnerships and raising the visibility of MHP in the community and within the health care industry.

Early Recognition for Clinical Deterioration and Sepsis

In November, Nursing implemented new policies and systems to promote early recognition for clinical deterioration and sepsis. First up was the use of standard call parameters, where vital sign and mental status assessments outside a specified range require physician notification in the absence of more stringent parameters set by medical orders or unit protocols. This was followed by adding an early warning score, a composite score based on vital signs, oxygen needs, and mental status that reflects potential mortality. Nursing personnel’s existing vital sign entries will formulate a large part of the score in the computer. The nurse will add oxygen required and mental status assessment to complete the score. Scores of 0-4 reflect normal parameters and scores of 5-7 reflect the need for higher vigilance and vital signs will be increased to every four hours. A score of 8 requires the implementation of the Rapid Response Team.

Extensive efforts are underway to educate both nurses and physicians in these improvements. The Sepsis Steering Committee has endorsed this work, and the information was presented to all Medical Executive committees and Jersey Shore’s Academic Chairs. In addition, the latest issue of Eye on Evidence focuses on “New Practices in Clinical Deterioration Identification and Intervention Standard Call Parameters” and addresses standard call parameters and early warning scores. Read it now on the homepage of MeridianHealthDoctor.com. This educational activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Electronic Health Record Subsidy Program Updates

Meridian remains committed to providing our affiliated physicians with options to make deploying a successful electronic health record (EHR) and interface to Jersey Health Connect Health Information Exchange (HIE) easy and affordable. To that end, Meridian Health will continue the Subsidy Program in place for primary care providers and specialty care providers with a few changes. To learn more about these subsidy offerings, please take a moment to visit MeridianHealth.com/EHR.

Additionally, the Meridian Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Board of Trustees approved a new program for EHR and HIE initiatives exclusively for ACO participants. The Subsidy Program has two components, one relating to the implementation of the office EHR, and the other which allows an EHR to connect to the HIE. ACO participants may be eligible for one or both of the subsidies in the program, and can visit MeridianHealthDoctor.com/ACO to learn more.

App Available for Clinical Support

UpToDate clinical decision support is a trusted resource that is proven to improve outcomes for health care organizations. Meridian Health providers now have access to this powerful evidence-based content at the office, at home, or at a patient’s bedside. With an increased focus on improving quality and safety of care while lowering cost, the use of UpToDate has been associated with decreased length of stay in hospitals and lower mortality rates. Even better, if you register and sign in every time you do a search, you earn 0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for each question researched. Log in on the Dashboard with your UpToDate User Name and Password. You only need to do this once — the app remembers your User Name and Password.

2015-2016 Flu Vaccination Program

Meridian kicked off its system-wide Flu Vaccination Program in October. The Flu Surveillance Teams will provide free flu vaccinations to physicians at various locations throughout Meridian. The Flu Vaccination Schedules are posted on TeamMeridian.com.

If you received a flu shot at the Physician Appreciation Event in September, and did not receive a marker for your ID badge, please stop by the Medical Staff Office at your primary facility to receive one. If you choose to receive a flu shot from a non-Meridian facility, visit your Medical Staff Office and either provide documentation of receiving the flu shot or sign an attestation in order to receive the flu marker for your ID badge.

CMEs: Please Join Us for These Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Department of Medicine Gastrointestinal Symposium, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Jersey Shore University Medical Center Lance Auditorium

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Emergency Psychiatry Symposium: Suicide Prevention, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Jersey Shore University Medical Center Lance Auditorium

Learn more about these events and more by visiting the CME calendar at MeridianHealthDoctor.com/CME.
The Health Insurance Marketplace is Open
The 2016 open enrollment period began November 1 and ends on January 31, 2016. Participants can enroll by December 15, 2015, for coverage effective January 1, 2016. Meridian Health is participating in the following health insurance exchange products:

- AmeriHealth Tier One Advantage
- AmeriHealth Advantage Plant
- Health Republic Insurance of New Jersey through the QualCare HMO Network
- OMMA through Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey
- OSCAR through the QualCare HMO Network
- Oxford Garden State Network
- UnitedHealthcare Compass
- Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield OMNA

Through these products, members who use the services of a Meridian hospital will incur the lowest out-of-pocket costs. If you know of anyone who needs additional assistance with renewing their insurance or applying for the first time, they can visit LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov or make an appointment to speak with a Meridian Financial Counselor at 732.212.6505.

Attention Clinicians: ZynxEvidence® is Now Available!
ZynxEvidence is an online library of rigorously researched clinical evidence, national guidelines, and quality measures. It works to empower health care organizations to measurably improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of patient care. With ZynxEvidence, you can access evidence in user friendly formats, ranging from pediatrics to adults; medical, surgical, or psychiatric conditions; and specialty areas, such as oncology. Evidence is well-sourced and presented concisely with clear recommendations for practice.

To access the Zynx Evidence-Based Content Library, visit the Evidence-Based Care link on Dashboard and select Meridian Health Evidence-Based Guidelines and Protocols.

Important Reminders Regarding Documentation for the Two Midnight Rule in Your Medicare Patients:

- When admitting a patient: If you feel a patient requires a two midnight stay, make them inpatient but provide documentation that paints a picture of an ill patient for which an outside reviewer would feel an expectation of two midnights is justified.

- When a patient is appropriately in inpatient status but is not staying for a second midnight: There must be documentation as to why the patient isn’t staying for the second midnight — for example, “Patient left AMA;” “Patient refusing further treatment;” or “Patient transferred to another acute care hospital.” There must be documentation that the patient expired, that the patient is being placed on hospice, and, most importantly, a statement that documents that the patient “unexpectedly improved sooner than anticipated” when the patient has improved.

- When after one midnight under OP/OBS the patient is being changed to inpatient because the patient requires further medically necessary care: There must be documentation as to why patient is being changed to inpatient — for example, “Patient is not improved (or has not sufficiently improved) after one midnight of treatment and requires a further midnight of IV treatment for __________.”

- When it is realized that a Medicare inpatient should really be OP/OBS: Though an OP/OBS order must be placed, it will be considered invalid and the patient will remain an inpatient if a Code 44 is not done. This requires a case manager as the patient must receive written notification that they have been changed to an OP status as their financial obligations may now be different.

AND: Verbal or telephone inpatient orders or inpatient orders by a resident, PA, or APN without admitting privileges must be co-signed prior to discharge, otherwise the entire stay will be denied.
JERSEY SHORE NEWS

Welcome New Medical and Dental Staff Members

Mursalin M. Anis, M.D., Surgery
Matthew T. Caddell, D.O., Family Practice
Ravi Diwan, M.D., Medicine
Anastadia M. Esvar, M.D., Medicine
Blair R. Gumnic, D.O., Obstetrics & Gynecology
Ashwin S. Kamath, M.D., Surgery
Habib U. Khan, M.D., Surgery
Ghazalah I. Malik, M.D., Pediatrics
Dina N. Meckael, D.O., Medicine
Sandip K. Parikh, M.D., Medicine
Tehsin R. Qudsi, M.D., Pediatrics
Matthew M. Schiff, M.D., Psychiatry
Mark C. Stovroff, M.D., Pediatrics
Marie D. Werner, M.D., Obstetrics & Gynecology
Hashem A. Ayyad, M.D., Pathology
Lindsay N. Cammarata, M.D., Anesthesiology
Tomer Davidov, M.D., Surgery
Karan K. Estwick, DDS, Surgery
Jared N. Gelband, DMD, Dentistry
Pinakin R. Jethwa, M.D., Surgery
Mahim Kapoor, M.D., Medicine
Christina A. Lusk-Caceres, D.O., Family Practice
Jacob S. McAfee, M.D., Surgery
Steven S. Neuman, M.D., Orthopedics
Brian C. Paterson, DMD, M.D., Dentistry
Jacqueline D. Roman, D.O., Obstetrics & Gynecology
Sandhya Shukla, M.D., Medicine
Joseph A. Sussman, DPM, Orthopedics

Jersey Shore Trauma Center Turns 25

For the past 25 years, Jersey Shore has been the only hospital in the region to provide advanced trauma care, caring for more than 30,000 people with life-threatening injuries. The level II Trauma Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by full-time, fellowship trained, and board-certified trauma surgeons, as well as registered nurses, technicians and team members specially trained in trauma care. Jersey Shore’s Trauma Center includes 24-hour diagnostics services, dedicated operating rooms, surgical and pediatric intensive care units, and a full complement of subspecialty support.

Recertification for Cardiac Rehab at Jersey Shore

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at Jersey Shore University Medical Center has received recertification for its strict standards of practice from the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR). The AACVPR is a professional association dedicated to reducing morbidity, mortality, and disability from cardiovascular and pulmonary disease through education, prevention, rehabilitation, research, and disease management. Jersey Shore’s 2015 accreditation will be valid for three years.

Looking for the Latest News?
The Meridian Physician Extranet www.MeridianHealthDoctor.com is your resource for the latest physician news and events across Meridian Health. If you have any news you would like to share with other physicians, please contact Michael McCauley, director of Communications, at mmccauley@meridianhealth.com.