Welcome to WellStar Clinical Partners

On behalf of the WellStar Clinical Partners (WCP) Board of Managers, I would like to personally welcome you to our organization. We now have more than 1,100 physician members and look forward to building our network with a quality and efficiency focus.

WCP will be led by a 16 member board, with 15 physician members and one non-physician member of the WellStar Board of Trustees. The 15 physician members include five WellStar Medical Group (WMG) physicians and 10 affiliated physicians.

Decisions made by the WCP board require approval of 75 percent of the members, driving us to reach consensus among different specialties, geographies, affiliates and WellStar Medical Group.

WCP continues WellStar’s stated goal of parity by removing distinctions between WMG and affiliated physicians, allowing us to work together on equal footing to improve the quality of care to our patients.

Key to development of a clinically integrated organization is the ability to collect quality data from all participating physicians and to work together to improve care to patients. For the majority of practices, data will come from the practices’ electronic health record and/or practice management system.

We will work collectively with WellStar to manage care across the continuum in a coordinated fashion, and work with payers to provide incentives for improvements in the quality and cost of care.

The WCP Board has chartered five committees to support you and the WCP Board in the clinical integration journey. These committees are led by your physician partners and include:

- Quality, Population Health and Informatics Committee
- Provider Network Committee
- Finance and Contracting Committee
- Strategic Committee
- Patient Service Committee

We also would like to invite you to check out our website, wellstarclinicalpartners.com, for updated FAQs, informational videos and announcements regarding WCP or call 470-644-0889.

We look forward to the next steps in this journey and are so glad you are a part of it.

Sincerely,

Arif Aziz, M.D.
Gastrointestinal Specialists of Georgia
Chair, Board of Managers
WellStar Clinical Partners
WCP is an organization that aligns physicians with a common goal of improving the quality and efficiency of care. Key to the development of the WCP organization is the ability to collect quality data from all participating physicians.

WCP will collect data for selected measures, documented and captured through your electronic health record and/or practice management system (via claims). For affiliated providers’ practices, clinical quality data will be captured initially through the use of CPT and CPT II codes, which record clinical information for each patient encounter on a claim.

Data for affiliated providers will be obtained from claims files from the clearinghouse utilized by their practices. The clearinghouse will send pre-adjudicated claims to WCP. Financial data will not be shared. We will then leverage WellStar’s Epic Cogito Data Warehouse to aggregate and analyze data in order to produce quality scorecards.

We now are ready to develop the process for data collection from the clearinghouses using the following phased approach.

**WCP Phase I**

For this phase, our goal is to include a maximum number of practices with a minimum number of clearinghouses. This phase will include the 64 practices and 328 providers that utilize the following four clearinghouses.

1. Emdeon/Capario
2. Navicure
3. PayerPath
4. RelayHealth/McKesson

If you use one of these clearinghouses, congratulations! We will be reaching out to you to get the process started and get agreements signed.

**WCP Future Phases**

The remaining practices have been broken into Phase II and Phase III.

- Phase II will include the 13 practices that use Gateway (Trizetto).
- Phase III will include the 18 remaining practices that use nine additional clearinghouses.

The Quality, Population Health and Informatics committee already has begun the process of collecting and refining data from employed physicians in order to develop initial ambulatory reports. In addition, we are collecting inpatient data from the Epic inpatient database. We are excited to begin the process for ambulatory data collection from affiliated physicians using the clearinghouses, which will facilitate aligned metrics for both affiliated and employed physicians.

The quality metrics selected come from nationally recognized sources, such as CMS core measures and ambulatory PQRS measures. These will be reported regularly through a provider dashboard and will become the basis for provider incentive programs resulting from future contracts with payers. We anticipate completing our first reports by Dec. 31. The purpose of the first year’s reports will be for developing baseline data only.

WCP is available to provide guidance on how the selected measures are defined, documented and captured through your electronic health record and/or practice management system.

**James Fisher, M.D.**

Healthwise Internal Medicine
Chair, Quality, Population Health and Informatics Committee
Provider Network Committee

The Provider Network committee provides several key functions to WCP. First and foremost, the committee reviews and approves all applications for membership into WCP, as well as evaluating any conflicts of interest under the participating provider agreement. Those recommendations then go to the WCP Board for discussion, any needed revisions, and ultimate approval.

The committee also is responsible for reviewing network adequacy, and working out a plan to fill out any areas of deficiency. Communications to the membership of WCP also is under our supervision (with such things as this newsletter).

The committee will be responsible for monitoring the performance and adherence to the measures developed by the Quality committee. When we find a member who has opportunities for improvement, the committee will meet with them and develop a plan for member improvement that will be reviewed by the board. The committee then will assign members to monitor the plan and performance improvement.

Like all WCP committees, we take great pride in this network and represent its geographic and professional diversity.

Chuck Craton, M.D.
WellStar Medical Group
Douglasville Medical Center
Chair, Provider Network Committee

Finance and Contracting Committee

The Finance and Contracting committee is tasked with focusing on all elements of the financial success of the WCP. We are charged with oversight of the managed care contracting process, creation of the distribution formula for shared savings, budget oversight and ensuring legal compliance in these areas.

Our committee has been appointed with representation from the following areas: Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Surgery, Anesthesia and Radiology. We have committed to the WCP Board to include a high level of transparency in our operations and to provide all members with a list of tenets that we adhere to throughout our policy making efforts. In that manner, all members will be cognizant of the goals and priorities of our committee.

Pam Weigandt, M.D.
MAK Anesthesia Cobb
Chair, Finance and Contracting Committee

If you are interested in participating in any committee, please contact the committee chair or any WellStar Clinical Partners board member.
Metrics, Data Capture and Timeline

How were metrics selected?
The selected quality metrics come from nationally recognized sources such as CMS core measures and ambulatory PQRS measures. The quality metrics for WCP were vetted and selected by a quality task force, utilizing input from physician advisors representing each specialty.

How will WCP capture quality data from my practice?
For most affiliated physician groups, quality measures will be captured through practice CPT and CPT II coding records, which record information about patient encounters in the same format as claims data.

What work already is happening on quality metrics and scorecards?
The Quality, Population Health and Informatics committee already has begun the process of collecting and refining data from employed physicians in order to develop initial ambulatory reports. In addition, we are collecting inpatient data from the Epic® inpatient database.

When will WCP begin the process of collecting my data?
We are now (October 2015) starting the process for data collection from the clearinghouses, using a phased approach.

Phase I: We have begun working with the following four clearinghouses to develop agreements: Emdeon/Capario, Navicure, PayerPath, and Relayhealth/McKesson to develop agreements. When these are finalized, we will reach out to you to get your agreement signed. We anticipate that this phase, which includes 64 practices, 328 providers and utilizes these four clearinghouses, will take 6-12 weeks.

Follow-up phases: When Phase I is complete, two additional phases will incorporate the 10 remaining clearinghouses and the remaining WCP practices.

When will I receive a quality scorecard?
Once implemented, scorecards will be reported regularly through a provider dashboard and will become the basis for provider incentive programs resulting from future contracts with payers.

We are anticipating having our first reports completed by Dec. 31. The purpose of the first year’s reports will be for developing base-line data only.