



Monterey Bay
INDEPENDENT PHYSICIAN
ASSOCIATION



Minute Update

A BUSY COUPLE OF MONTHS

It has been a few months since our last Minute Update, largely because we've been very busy making some things happen. We'll have a few regular Updates in the next months to catch up. Here's a brief summary of what's been happening with the MBIPA and our community:

SVMHS – CHOMP/MONTAGE COLLABORATION. As most of you know, our initiative to foster appropriate cooperation among our two community hospitals and providers has come to fruition. With the final approval of one of the subsidiary boards this week, SVMHS's purchase of 49% of Montage Health's Aspire Health Plan, Community Health Innovations, and Coastal TPA will be complete. The importance of this monumental shift in our healthcare landscape should not be underestimated. The level of collaboration already institutionalized has been remarkable. And with its purchase of Aspire Medicare Advantage Plan, SVMHS has become a vital and enthusiastic champion.

ASPIRE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE. Remember when I reminded you that you own a couple of hospitals? Well, now you own a health plan, too! In every way, the Aspire Health Plan – both its Medicare Advantage and commercial plans - are our community assets, owned by each of us through our ownership of SVMHS and Montage. We should all consider these assets worthy of our support and promotion; we all stand to benefit from their success, or be hurt by failure. Open enrollment in Aspire MA is open until December 7th, and early numbers are ahead of last year's enrollment. The plan is a superb option for many (*over 50% of new Medicare recipients in the US choose MA plans!*). Aspire's newly-designed three options provide excellent choices for a range of patients – including (for low-income seniors) a no-cost plan and an enhanced *zero out-of-pocket* option. Encourage your patients, friends and neighbors to take a good look at the health plan that they own.

THE MBIPA SHARE OFFERING. Our quite successful share offering ended recently. We now have 230 physician shareholders. (With recent expansion, there are currently approximately over 125 PCP's, 350 specialists, and 100 non-physician providers in the MBIPA.) Our annual shareholder meeting is December 6th, at which we will elect and re-elect eight directors, expanding the Board from 9 to 11.

CONSENSUS STATEMENTS. In the next several weeks we will be rolling out several evaluation and treatment "Consensus Statements" that have been developed by the MBIPA with the vital input of national experts and our member providers. We plan for these to define our community standard of appropriate care for a number of common medical conditions. Please look out for them!

--- Jim

November 10, 2016