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Hospital / Facility Care

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AgeWell Providers Will Stop Seeing Hospital Patients

The providers at AgeWell Medical Associates – Jeff Kulp, Beth Allen, Gail Cathey and Lisa Foster – want our patients to know that they will no longer care for hospitalized patients after July 31, 2013.

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Our staff will be in contact with you and make an appointment with your provider upon discharge from the hospital to review those records and coordinate any ongoing treatment. (Please see article on new Medicare codes following discharge for additional information)

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Address: 2350 International Circle  Phone: 719 475-5065
Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Advanced Healthcare of Colorado Springs to Open

If you have been at AgeWell in the past year, you have seen the building to the north of us – just up the hill on Parkside between us and Dr. Wright’s Eye Center – under construction. This is Advanced Healthcare of Colorado Springs, a subacute rehabilitation facility.

Following hospitalization, many adults need an additional period of inpatient recovery before returning home. Medicare, and Medicare Advantage plans, provide a generous benefit for such “subacute” care. Services provided include nursing care, as well as physical, occupational and speech therapy. Stays typically last two to three weeks, after which the patient returns home, and is in much better condition to be successful at home.

Advanced Healthcare operates thirteen other subacute facilities in Colorado, Arizona and Utah, and has a reputation as an industry leader. Advanced Colorado Springs is a remarkable facility – 34 luxurious private rooms and common areas including gym and dining areas. It is unlike any subacute facility we have seen. The indications are that the care will be equally good. We have been very impressed with the administrative and nursing staff.

You may know that your AgeWell providers have been directing the subacute care of our patients at other facilities. We plan to limit such care in the future to our patients who are at Advanced Healthcare. Also, Dr. Kulp has accepted the position of Medical Director at the facility. If you require subacute rehabilitation after a hospitalization, we hope you will consider Advanced Healthcare of Colorado Springs.

Lose Well – Weight loss Management at AgeWell Medical Associates

Just a reminder about the new Medicare benefit for weight loss. According to the Medicare guidelines beneficiaries with obesity defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) equal to or greater than 30, qualify for counseling visits. The first step would be to call and let us know you are interested in the Lose Well program. Your BMI can be calculated by your provider to see if you qualify for this benefit. The Medicare benefit is as follows:

- One face-to-face visit every week for the first month
- One face-to-face visit every other week for months two to six.
- One face-to-face visit every month for months seven to twelve, IF you meet the 6.6 pound weight loss requirement during the first 6 months of the program.

The visits will include education on lifestyle modifications that include diet and exercise. The program will be led by Beth Allen, one of the Nurse Practitioners at AgeWell Medical Associates. Beth has personal experience with weight loss and is a Lifetime Member of Weight Watchers. We look forward to partnering with you in this quest to improve your health and make it possible for you to Lose Well.

Our third group class will be starting on Tuesday August 6th and there are just a few slots left. Classes are only offered on Tuesday afternoons at this time and do fill up quickly. Take advantage of this health promotion benefit by calling today!

New Medicare Codes for Care Following Facility Discharge

Medicare recently added new codes for the care that primary care providers render after discharge from a hospital or other nursing facility. They are called “transitional care management codes” and cover the care provided for the 30 days following discharge.

At AgeWell, we have always provided this care for our patients as we believe it is an important part of your complete recovery when you return to your home. Often patients have questions and concerns that come up once they are back in the comfort of their own homes and we want to be proactive in addressing them with you. Now we have a more methodical way of doing that based on the Medicare guidelines and we are implementing that for our patients immediately.

When you are discharged from the hospital or rehabilitation facility, one of our clinical staff will contact you within 2 business days about scheduling an appointment to see your provider. Based on the provider’s direction, you will be asked to schedule that appointment within 1 to 2 weeks. Our staff will also ask about your medications, medical services such as oxygen and home care, and if you have other questions they can answer. On occasion, we may not be aware of your facility stay, so it is important that you contact us by the afternoon of the 2nd day if you have not heard from our office.

We unfortunately have seen that some of the secondary insurances are not covering the 20% co-insurance portion and are passing that along to the patient. Tricare for Life is one of the payers doing this. Since we are going to bill Medicare for this service, we are encouraging patients to call their secondary insurance providers and ask that they reconsider these codes for payment. We hope that with enough subscriber feedback, they will begin to cover this service in the future.

We are pleased that Medicare is recognizing the importance of the primary care provider’s services following discharge and patients have already told us how much they appreciate hearing from us so soon after returning home. We know that our patients are more comfortable discussing concerns with the provider team who knows them best which is why we ask that you always contact us first. If we can prevent our patients from going to the emergency room or being re-admitted to the hospital by addressing issues promptly either by phone or in the office, we can provide better care with improved outcomes, and increase patient satisfaction.
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Advanced Healthcare invites you to attend an open house to tour the facility and meet the Advanced staff on Saturday July 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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