Dearest Merit Members,

Happy Holidays!

We share our warmest wishes for a holiday season filled with joy, and a new year of peace and prosperity.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in 2018 and beyond.

Welcome to Coastal Pediatrics!

Kelsey Alexander, MD
Melissa Behm, MD
Welcome to our new members!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physician</th>
<th>Practice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G. Taylor Ellison</td>
<td>Savannah Vascular &amp; Cardiac Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Jarrell</td>
<td>SouthCoast</td>
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The BEST of Savannah DOCTORS

Congratulations to our members!

Best Primary Care Physician
Dr. Kristen Updegraff, MD
Southcoast

Best Allergist
Dr. Brad Goodman, MD
Coastal Allergy & Asthma

Best Gastroenterologist
Dr. Branden Hunter, MD
Gastroenterology Consultants of Savannah
Best Orthopedist
Dr. Robert Dow Hoffman, MD
Chatham Orthopedic Associates

Best Sleep Specialist
Dr. Anthony Costrini, MD
Southeast Lung Associates

Physician Highlight
December 2017

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Zoller of Ear, Nose, & Throat Associates of Savannah on celebrating the 40th anniversary since he founded the practice in 1977. Since then, he as welcomed Dr. Fred Daniel, Dr. Stephen Rashleigh, Dr. William Moretz, Dr. Brad Rawlings, Dr. Diane Davis, and Michelle Yamanda PA into the practice. Please click here to read about his accomplishment! We are happy to have you on our team!
Our TCPI team has been very helpful to our practices in the monthly calls. If your practice participates in the monthly calls, KJ Auld and Michelle Morales offer a 'MIPS Tracker' which calculates the possible MIPS score based on your performance in the three categories: Quality, Advancing Care Information, and Improvement Activities. 

With that being said would like to congratulate Dr. Steven Shapiro of Savannah Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle on receiving a perfect score on their MIPS tracker! Of course many factors helped make them successful, but primarily their EHR Athena's workflow, according to office manager, Daniel Crosby. Daniel actively participates in the monthly calls offered by the TCPI program, which checks off all points for Improvement Activities.

If you haven't been participating in the TCPI Program and would like to, please contact Ami Patel at apatel@shpllc.com.

2018 QPP Top Takeaways

Please click here to view our top takeaways from the final rule.
**CVS to buy Aetna for $69 Billion**

The deal would be considered one of the largest transactions of the year, combining the drugstore giant and one of the biggest health insurers in the United States. To read more, please [click here](#).

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**Virginia Warns Children Will Lose Coverage Without CHIP**

Since federal funding for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expired on September 30, 2017, states are preparing plans and notifying families about coverage reductions before the end of 2017. Click [here](#) to read more.

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**Ascension and Providence Health Talk Merger**

The Merger would create the largest hospital chain in America, with 191 hospitals in 27 states, and annual revenue of $44.8 billion. Click [here](#) to read more.

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**GA Open Enrollment Likely To Fall Short of Previous Year**

The final number of Georgians who actually started exchange coverage in 2017 was 404,000. This year 246,270 have signed up for coverage in the state's exchange. Click [here](#) to read more.

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**House Panel Urges Changes to Stop Decline of Rural Health Care**

GA House members have approved a set of bold proposals to strengthen rural health care in the state. The recommendations include expanding insurance coverage
through a Medicaid “waiver” project and making changes in the state's licensing laws known as Certificate of Need. Click [here](#) to read more.

Contact us!

Merit is committed to providing our members and partners with the information you need, when you need it. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback - please let us know!

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