



PROVIDER NEWSLETTER

July 2024

PROVIDING POST-OPERATIVE CARE TO OUR MEMBERS

Senior patients account for a large portion of surgical procedures. A [2023 study](#) published in the Annals of Surgery found that about one million major surgeries occur in patients 65 and older. Major surgery is a common event in the lives of seniors, and they face heightened age-related risks for post-surgery complications. Your support in creating a plan for effective post-operative care is essential to the recovery process and may help alleviate your patients' concerns.



SUPPORTING OUR SENIOR MEMBERS' POST-OPERATIVE CARE

Loss of independence, functional decline, and cognitive impairment are major concerns for older adults. [Studies suggest](#) that 70% would not choose treatments that would lead to these outcomes.

In an effort to improve surgical outcomes for older adults, the American College of Surgeons launched the Geriatric Surgery Verification Program, as well as program standards: [Optimal Resources for Geriatric Surgery](#). Here are a few highlights for post-operative management:

INTERDISCIPLINARY CARE FOR HIGH-RISK PATIENTS:

Patients identified as high risk based on the geriatric vulnerability screens benefit from post-operative care provided by an interdisciplinary healthcare team that includes care transitions/social work/case management, nursing, surgery, physical therapy/occupational therapy, and PCP with geriatric expertise.

STANDARDIZED POST-OPERATIVE CARE:

In addition to what is routinely performed, all post-operative care must address delirium, mobility and function, nutrition, and hydration.

POST-OPERATIVE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT:

Ensure there are processes in place to evaluate for and alert providers to the use of potentially inappropriate medications in older surgical patients. Ensure that all older adults complete a post-hospitalization medication reconciliation to ensure that senior patients understand any changes to their medications and the scheduling of those medications.



TIPS TO CLOSE POST-OP CARE GAPS



Gold Kidney provides our members with home-delivered meals to cover two meals per day for 14 days when recovering from surgery or in-patient stays.



Review discharge instructions and medication adherence with the patient and/or their caregiver.



Gold Kidney's nurse advice line is available to members 24/7 to assist with questions and escalate to appropriate resources as needed.



Encourage patients to follow-up for a medication reconciliation. Gold Kidney members receive a \$25 reward for completing this important visit within 14 days of discharge.

With the Paris 2024 Olympic Games on the horizon, a spirit of determination and teamwork fills the air. It is a great reminder of our partnership with you to fulfill our deep purpose as we Go for the Gold together.

GO FOR THE GOLD

Gold Kidney's Deep Purpose: To fulfill a social contract between the provider and patient. In doing so, we improve health outcomes by empowering the individual, caregivers, and providers with expanded access to health care, lower out-of-pocket costs, and benefits designed specifically for daily health care needs.



ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT (AWV)

This is a reminder for providers to please submit the correct codes when submitting AWV claims.

For the rewards program, we are currently accepting claims for an IPPE (999385-99387 and 99395-99397) or AWV (G0402, G0438, or G0439).

CONTACT US

Feel free to contact Gold Kidney with any questions or concerns. Our Provider Relations Team is dedicated to assisting and streamlining processes for you, our valued providers and members.

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The first 3 offices to email us with the phrase "GO FOR THE GOLD" will win a \$60 Dunkin' Donuts gift card for their office!

Please follow us on social media to stay up to date on news and useful information.

