

## Next Generation ACO Cost Sharing Support for Part B Services Benefit Enhancement: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated January 2019

The FAQs below are related to the Next Generation ACO (NGACO) Model Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement. They address the policy and the requirements involved in implementing the benefit enhancement and giving cost-sharing support to eligible beneficiaries.

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**Q1: What is the implementation start date for NGACOs that submitted implementation plans for the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement? Will there be opportunities to submit an Implementation Plan in 2019?**

**A:** NGACOs that submitted implementation plans by November 16, 2018, may begin operations for this benefit enhancement as early as January 1, 2019. NGACOs have another opportunity to submit implementation plans by April 5, 2019. The start date for ACOs that submit implementation plans in April 2019 will be June 1, 2019. CMS requires at least one month to review the completed implementation plans and will finalize the official start date in the coming months.

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**Q2: Do NGACOs need to have a fully executed Cost Sharing Support Arrangement with the NGACO Participants or the Preferred Providers by the model's benefit enhancement implementation start date?**

**A:** Agreements between the NGACO and NGACO Participants or Preferred Providers who are participating in the benefit enhancement must be fully executed by the date of the NGACO's waiver implementation with that particular Participant/Preferred Provider. In some instances, this could be after the model's benefit enhancement implementation start date.

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**Q3: Are NGACOs required to submit to CMS the Cost Sharing Support Agreements that they established with NGACO Participants or Preferred Providers?**

**A:** NGACOs are not required to submit their Cost Sharing Support Agreements as part of the Implementation Plan review process. NGACOs must keep the agreements on file, and they would be subject to future reporting/auditing.

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**Q4: Are NGACOs required to implement the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement across the whole organization, or may NGACOs start with a phased implementation or a pilot test (e.g., focusing on one or two NGACO Participants or Preferred Providers)?**

**A:** NGACOs can add NGACO Participants or Preferred Providers for participation in the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement during the performance year. NGACOs may start implementing this benefit enhancement by executing a Cost Sharing Support Arrangement with one (or more) NGACO Participant(s) or Preferred Provider(s) and then add providers over time, but these additions must be consistent with the NGACO's Implementation Plan. Cost Sharing Support

Agreements must also be in place, before implementing this benefit enhancement with additional NGACO Participant(s) or Preferred Provider(s).

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**Q5: May the NGACO Participant or the Preferred Provider that the NGACO has a Cost Sharing Support Arrangement with agree to get no reimbursement of the beneficiary's cost-sharing amount from the NGACO? Or does the NGACO have to pay some portion of the cost-sharing amount?**

**A:** If the NGACO Participant or the Preferred Provider has agreed to have no reimbursement for the beneficiary's cost-sharing, then it would be allowable. The reimbursement arrangement must be outlined in the Cost Sharing Support Agreement between the NGACO and the Participant or the Preferred Provider.

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**Q6: May an NGACO target aligned beneficiaries who have Medicare supplemental insurance for the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement?**

**A:** Yes, the model does not prohibit NGACOs from targeting beneficiaries with supplemental insurance for participation in the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement.

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**Q7: How can NGACOs identify which of their aligned beneficiaries have Medicare supplemental insurance?**

**A:** In 2019, CMS will give NGACOs that submit implementation plans for the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement a list of their aligned beneficiaries who are known to have supplemental insurance.

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**Q8: Are prescription drugs, including injectable medications, included under the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement?**

**A:** No, the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement does not cover items such as Part B drugs or durable medical equipment. The Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement covers only Part B "services" and not "items."

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**Q9: Are NGACOs required to submit quarterly data to CMS about its use of the Cost Sharing Benefit Enhancement?**

**A:** No, NGACOs do not need to submit quarterly data on its use of this benefit enhancement. More information about the requirements for the semi-annual reports will be available in 2019.

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