



**News Release**  
**July 24, 2019**

**Statement on the Office of Inspector General Report on the Medicare Shared Savings Program**  
*Attributed to Clif Gaus, Sc.D., President and CEO of the National Association of ACOs (NAACOS)*

[Today's report](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General (OIG) is a roadmap for success in accountable care that should be read by policymakers and ACOs alike. This OIG report outlines best practices of 20 high-performing ACOs and includes topics such as engaging physicians and beneficiaries, addressing social determinants of health, using technology to share information, and incorporating behavioral health. Following up its [2017 report](#) that praised ACOs' ability to improve quality, today's OIG report found high-performing ACOs lowered spending by an average of \$673 per beneficiary through practices such as using primary care visits to reduce emergency department visits.

NAACOS agrees with the recommendations and works to share strategies that optimize ACOs' work, which the OIG thoughtfully outlined. For example, we [are working](#) through our [Institute for Accountable Care](#) on caring for high-cost, high-need patients. We know it can take [as long as four years](#) before ACOs achieve savings. Achieving success is an iterative process that takes time learning what works and what's needed within an organization and community and is made harder by the lack of a "one-size-fits-all" strategy.

The OIG notably recommends CMS review the impact of its recent Pathways to Success rule changes for the Shared Savings Program, including those that affect participation. As NAACOS [said last week](#) when CMS released the latest participants, the agency should carefully monitor the slowing growth to ensure the pipeline of future, risk-taking ACOs remains strong while current ACOs don't drop out of the program.

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**About NAACOS.** The National Association of ACOs (NAACOS) is the largest association of Medicare ACOs, representing more than 6 million beneficiary lives through 330 MSSP, Next Generation and Commercial ACOs. NAACOS is an ACO member-led and member-owned nonprofit organization that works on behalf of ACOs across the nation to improve the quality of care, population health and outcomes, and healthcare cost efficiency.