



News Release

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NAACOS Statement on Direct Contracting Request for Applications

Attributed to Clif Gaus, Sc.D., President and CEO of the National Association of ACOs (NAACOS)

The Innovation Center's Direct Contracting Model is really an ACO by another name and builds off the successful Next Generation (Next Gen) ACO Model. NAACOS is excited to see CMS demonstrating its commitment to value-based care and payment by moving forward with accountable care models like Direct Contracting, which make providers accountable for patients' total cost of care. Given the robust attention ACOs and the broader health community have given Direct Contracting, NAACOS looks forward to better understanding important details of the program released today.

NAACOS is pleased to see CMS give Next Gen ACOs the option to continue in the program until it sunsets at the end of next year. Also, allowing two application periods, with the second opening this spring, will allow more time for the provider community to understand important details of Direct Contracting and weigh their participation options. The Professional Option should test a more gradual onramp to fully capitated payment under the Global Option and includes an innovative, 7 percent Primary Care Capitation payment.

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About NAACOS. The National Association of ACOs (NAACOS) represents more than 12 million beneficiary lives through hundreds of organizations participating in population health-focused payment and delivery models in Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial insurance. Models include the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP), Next Generation ACOs, and alternative payment models supported by a myriad of commercial health plans and Medicare Advantage. NAACOS is a member-led and member-owned nonprofit organization that works to improve quality of care, outcomes, and healthcare cost efficiency.