

AT A GLANCE

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Transforming Care for Patients With Complex Clinical Needs**
May 6th | 2:30–3:30 p.m. ET | [Register here](#)
- **Registration Now Open for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaboratives**

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [ACO Spotlight Newsletter Refresh](#)
- [Updated COVID-19 FAQs](#)
- [Shared Savings Program ACOs Automatically Registered for CMS Web Interface and CAHPS® for MIPS](#)
- [2021 CAHPS® for MIPS Benchmarks: Now Available](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

ACO Spotlight Newsletter Refresh

The *ACO Spotlight Newsletter (Spotlight)* has a new design format. The “Program Highlights” and “Resources Now Available” sections are now combined into a single section named “Program Announcements and Resources.” Use hyperlinks within the “At a Glance” section above to navigate directly to articles within the newsletter. As a reminder, you can view this newsletter and previous newsletters in the Spotlight Newsletters section of the Knowledge Library tab in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#).

Updated COVID-19 FAQs

CMS recently updated “Section U, Medicare Shared Savings Program - Accountable Care Organizations (ACO)” of the [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Medicare Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Billing](#) document. The updates to Section U include the following:

- Clarified that CMS is continuing to evaluate the Quality Measures Validation (QMV) Audit for Performance Year (PY) 2020 (Question 9).
- Added an FAQ to address removal of the beneficiary notification posters in facilities for purposes of infection prevention and control (Question 35).

Shared Savings Program ACOs Automatically Registered for CMS Web Interface and CAHPS® for MIPS

The registration period is open for the 2021 performance year for CMS Web Interface and Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) until June 30, 2021.

For PY 2021, ACOs will be required to report quality data via the Alternative Payment Model (APM) Performance Pathway (APP) and can choose to actively report either the 10 measures under the CMS Web Interface or the 3 electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)/MIPS CQMs. In addition, ACOs will be required to field the CAHPS® for MIPS survey, and CMS will calculate two measures using administrative claims data. Based on the ACO’s chosen reporting option, either 6 or 10 measures will be included in the calculation of the ACO’s quality performance score.

Shared Savings Program ACOs are automatically registered for the CMS Web Interface and do not need to register separately in the event they choose to report the 10 measures under the CMS Web Interface. ACOs are also required to field a CAHPS® for MIPS Survey to meet reporting requirements for the quality performance category under the APP. Similarly, ACOs are automatically registered for the CAHPS® for MIPS survey and do not need to register separately.

Not for Public Dissemination: The ACO Spotlight Newsletter is a biweekly publication by CMS for ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program. It is distributed by email only to ACO contacts listed in CMS’ ACO-MS. This newsletter is not intended to establish CMS policy and is for informational purposes only for the sole use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed, and individuals associated with their ACO. The newsletter is not intended for public release. The ACO Spotlight Newsletter is published, produced, and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense. If you have received this in error, please notify the sender immediately by emailing SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov

Review the [2021 APM Performance Pathway Quick Start Guide](#) or [2021 APM Performance Pathway \(APP\) for MIPS APM Participants](#) fact sheet for more details.

2021 CAHPS® for MIPS Benchmarks: Now Available

CMS updated the [2021 MIPS Quality Benchmarks](#) (zip file) to include the 2021 CAHPS® for MIPS historical benchmarks. The 2021 CAHPS® for MIPS Historical Benchmarks will be used to calculate the score of the CAHPS® for MIPS Survey for PY 2021. This file is available in the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) Resource Library](#). The zip file includes the following:

- 2021 CAHPS® for MIPS Historical Benchmarks
- 2021 MIPS Historical Quality Benchmarks
- 2021 MIPS Quality Benchmarks Fact Sheet
- 2021 Multiple Performance Rate Measures
- 2021 Quality Benchmark Zip File Version History

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSSP Learning System Webinar: Transforming Care for Patients With Complex Clinical Needs

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021, 2:30 P.M.–3:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs
- **Description:** ACO speakers and health researcher Dr. Taressa Frazee, University of California, San Francisco, will highlight approaches ACOs may consider for transforming care for patients with complex clinical needs, with a particular focus on identifying these patients, developing a care plan, and engaging stakeholders. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions during the webinar.

Registration Now Open for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaboratives Series

Registration is now open for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) series for ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program. The Learning System will host five virtual, cross-regional meetings to convene ACOs across the country to exchange ideas and collaborate on improvement strategies, such as setting aims, using data to inform improvement, and engaging stakeholders. Event participants will explore these concepts through facilitated discussion and ACO presentations on topics such as data integration, care coordination, beneficiary and provider engagement, and social determinants of health.

Who should attend?

Attendance is limited to ensure all interested ACOs have the opportunity to meaningfully connect with their peers through interactive breakout sessions. CMS invites ACOs to register for the meeting that best aligns with your team’s schedule, and request you limit your enrollment to three participants per ACO. ACOs should prioritize staff who work on quality and performance improvement initiatives. A waitlist will become available once the event reaches its registration limit.

Please RSVP using the links below.

DATE	TIME	REGISTRATION
May 13 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by May 6 th
May 20 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by May 13 th
June 3 rd	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by May 27 th
June 10 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by June 3 rd
June 24 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by June 17 th

Interested in presenting?

ACO staff interested in presenting formally at a VLC meeting are encouraged to express interest using the [Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative Speaker Submissions](#) survey. If your proposal is selected, a member of CMS' Learning System team will contact you to discuss a potential presentation.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

To help ACOs navigate questions regarding the Shared Savings Program.

ACO Information Center

Click the [ACO-MS](#) Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner)

- Program operations and policy inquiries; technical inquiries related to program data and program reports; ACO-MS; and assistance with user access to CMS systems, including password resets
- 1-888-734-6433 (select Option 1) or 1-888-734-6563 (TTY/TDD)

Quality Payment Program Service Center

QPP@cms.hhs.gov

- Inquiries related to MIPS, APMs, MACRA, CAHPS® for ACOs survey, quality measures, quality reporting for 2017 and future years, and CMS Web Interface
- 1-866-288-8292

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