

ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

March 10, 2021 | ISSUE 5

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **CMS Web Interface Quality Reporting: March 31, 2021**

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reminder: Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Data Updated in ACO-MS**
- **Final CMS Web Interface Support Call**
- **Updated COVID-19 FAQs on Medicare Fee-for-Service Billing**
- **2020 Q4 Opioid Utilization Report Delivery**
- **Compliance Plan Tip Sheet**
- **COVID-19 Vaccine News and Resources**

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CMS Web Interface Biweekly Support Call**

March 24th | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Reminder: Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Data Updated in ACO-MS

CMS recently updated the ACO participant and Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) affiliate Medicare enrollment information and the SNF affiliate star ratings under the CMS 5-Star Quality Rating System in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#). Refer to the *ACO Spotlight Newsletter* article, "Enhanced Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Functionality in ACO-MS," in Issue 22, published on October 28, 2020, for further instructions and information on how to access and review Medicare enrollment and SNF star rating information in ACO-MS.

Final CMS Web Interface Support Call

CMS is hosting one more support call for groups, virtual groups, and ACOs that are reporting data for the quality performance category through the CMS Web Interface for the 2020 performance period. The support call will highlight important information, provide updates on reporting quality data, and offer an opportunity for ACOs to engage in a question and answer session with CMS subject matter experts.

To attend the call, you must [register here](#). The call will be held on **Wednesday, March 24th at 1:00–2:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)**.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a calendar appointment for the support call and detailed information about joining the event.

Updated COVID-19 FAQs on Medicare Fee-for-Service Billing

CMS recently updated the [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Medicare Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Billing](#) document. Refer to Section U, "Medicare Shared Savings Program - Accountable Care Organizations (ACO)," for the addition of the applicable time period for each FAQ and new FAQs that cover the following:

- How the Shared Savings Program extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy for quality applies to all ACOs for Performance Year (PY) 2021 (question 33).
- How CMS is evaluating the Quality Measures Validation Audit for the PY 2019 for the Shared Savings Program ACOs (question 34).

2020 Q4 Opioid Utilization Report Delivered

CMS released the informational-only 2020 Quarter 4 (Q4) Opioid Utilization Report package on March 9, 2021. The report package was delivered to your ACO as a zip file that includes a cover notice and the opioid report. The download, entitled *Quarterly Claims-Based Quality Measure Report*, is accessible through the Data Hub tab in [ACO-MS](#). The zip file is named with the following convention: "P.Axxxx.ACO.QQR." This file will be available indefinitely.

For additional assistance, the informational [Opioid Utilization Report Overview](#) video is available to help review the contents of the quarterly *Opioid Utilization Report* and details of the four opioid utilization measures.

Compliance Plan Tip Sheet

To participate in the Shared Savings Program, each ACO must have a compliance plan as required by [42 CFR § 425.300](#). ACOs without compliance plans that meet the requirements of § 425.300 may be subject to a compliance action by CMS.

The [Shared Savings Program Compliance Plan ACO Tip Sheet](#) is available on the [Program Guidance & Specifications webpage](#). The tip sheet is intended to serve as a quick resource to help ACOs develop compliant and robust compliance plans. The tip sheet is based on best practices and includes items for ACOs to consider as they build and update their compliance plans.

If you have any questions, please log into [ACO-MS](#) and click the Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner), or contact the ACO Information Center at SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov or 1-888-734-6433 (Option 1). Additional information that could be helpful when developing your compliance plan is available on the [Compliance Guidance webpage](#) of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) website.

COVID-19 Vaccine News and Resources

In the [MLN Connects](#) newsletter published by the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) on March 4, 2021, CMS shared the following coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine-related information:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Codes: Emergency Use Authorization Effective Date for Janssen Biotech Inc.](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration: Insurance Coverage, Medicare Beneficiary Identifier \(MBI\), and Medicare Secondary Payer \(MSP\)](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQs on Medicare FFS Billing to Administer Vaccines](#)
- [COVID Vaccine Resources for Hard to Reach Patients](#)

RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

March CCLFs and Claims Run-Out Files

March Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files will be available to ACOs for PY 2021 in the Data Hub tab in [ACO-MS](#) on March 15th.

CMS will also provide claims run-out CCLFs during the months of March and April to the ACOs continuing their participation in the Shared Savings Program from the prior year. Continuing ACOs will receive claims with service dates through the end of December 2020 as an additional set of CCLFs. The run-out CCLFs will include claims for the beneficiary population from the ACOs' performance year that ended on December 31, 2020.

The March delivery timeline for the CCLF, Exclusion, and MBI Cross-reference (XREF) files is as follows:

FILE	DELIVERY	NAMING CONVENTION	DATA HUB PY
PY 21 Beneficiary Exclusion and MBI XREF files	March 10 th	P.A****.ACO.MBIY21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.Y21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021

FILE	DELIVERY	NAMING CONVENTION	DATA HUB PY
PY 21 CCLFs	March 15 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCY21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021
PY 20 Run-Out Beneficiary Exclusion and MBI XREF files	March 21 st	P.A****.ACO.MBIR20.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.R20.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2020
PY 20 Run-Out CCLFs	March 24 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCR20.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2020

ACOs should refer to the *CCLF Information Packet (IP)*, Version 31 (V31) and the *ACO and ACO-OS Data Exchange User Guide*, V11 for additional information on the CCLF and Exclusion files.

The CCLF IP and the *ACO-OS Data Exchange User Guide* are available under the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS. For technical assistance, please log into ACO-MS and click the Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner), or contact the ACO Information Center at SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov or 1-888-734-6433 (Option 1).

Updated 2021 Shared Savings Program Report Schedule: Now Available

An updated 2021 Shared Savings Program Report Schedule is available in the Program Operational Schedules section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#) by searching “2021 Shared Savings Program Report Schedule.” This report schedule provides information for ACOs participating in performance periods beginning January 2020 and January 2021. The report schedule dates are subject to change. The schedule has been updated to reflect that all ACOs will receive an adjusted historical benchmark for PY 2021 due to changes in the beneficiary assignment methodology specified in [42 CFR part 425 subpart E](#).

Updated Stayer, Leaver, Joiner Instructions: Now Available

CMS has developed a set of instructions to the updated V2 of the Stayer, Leaver, Joiner templates to assist ACOs in comparing assigned beneficiaries between two time periods. The Stayer, Leaver, Joiner templates utilize Assignment List Reports (ALRs) to determine how assigned beneficiary populations and risk scores changed between two time periods. The instructions provide a step-by-step walkthrough, complete with screenshots, that explain how to use the updated templates. The updated templates can be used with ALRs from Q1 2019 and onward.

Access the Stayer, Leaver, Joiner V2 instructions and resources in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#) by searching “Stayer, Leaver, Joiner Resources.”

Updated Risk Score Calculator: Now Available

CMS has developed a template that allows ACOs in agreement periods beginning on or after July 1, 2019, to estimate ACO-level risk scores provided in financial reconciliation and historical benchmark reports for performance years beginning on or after July 1, 2019, using data from relevant ALRs. The template contains instructions for how to properly use the calculator and a sample calculation with hypothetical data for illustrative purposes.

Access the ACO Risk Score Calculator in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab of [ACO-MS](#) by searching “Annual Risk Adjustment Example Calculation Template.”

Reminder: Case Study Available on OneCare Vermont ACO’s Innovation Fund

The Learning System has released a case study describing the development and implementation of OneCare Vermont’s Innovation Fund, which distributes grants to local organizations to help improve the quality, cost, and care experience for state residents. The ACO used a systematic approach to solicit, evaluate, and support ideas for innovative programs, attracting 81 proposals and awarding over \$1 million to eight diverse projects in 2019. OneCare’s experience may be informative for organizations seeking to launch or expand grant-making programs that foster innovation and support health system transformation.

CMS extends its appreciation to OneCare Vermont for sharing the details of its Innovation Fund. You can find the case study in the Webinars section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#) by searching “OneCare Vermont ACO: Innovation Fund.”

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMS Web Interface Biweekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021, 1:00 P.M.–2:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs and group reporters
- **Description:** CMS is hosting a series of support calls for ACOs and groups that are reporting data for the Quality Performance Category through the CMS Web Interface for PY 2020. The support call will highlight important information and updates on reporting quality data and provide ACOs and groups with an opportunity to engage in question and answer sessions with CMS subject matter experts. For more information on the CMS Web Interface Biweekly Support Call, view the [2020 Performance Period: CMS Web Interface Support Calls for ACOs, Groups, and Virtual Groups Reporting Quality Data to CMS](#) informational flyer.

Seeking ACO speakers for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative Series

In the spring of 2021, CMS will host five cross-regional Virtual Learning Collaboratives (VLCs) for ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program. The VLCs will be virtual, enabling ACOs across the country to convene to exchange ideas and collaborate on solutions to shared challenges.

Does your ACO have a success story to share?

CMS is seeking ACO presentations on approaches to data integration, care coordination, provider engagement, telehealth, beneficiary engagement, and social determinants of health.

Interested in presenting?

Express your interest in presenting using the [Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative Speaker Submissions](#) survey by April 1st. If your proposal is selected, a member of the CMS Learning System team will contact you to discuss a potential presentation.

Save the date!

ACOs are encouraged to register for the one meeting that works best for their team’s schedule. Registration details are forthcoming for the following meeting dates:

DATE	TIME
May 13 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET
May 20 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET
June 3 rd	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET
June 10 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET
June 24 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET

For any questions, please email ACOLearningActivities@mathematica-mpr.com.

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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