

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **NOIA:** June 1–7, 2022
- **ACO Application:** June 8–29, 2022
- **SNF Star Rating Rectification or Deletion:** September 9, 2022

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Organization-level Action Steps for Provider Burnout Webinar**
May 18th | 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [Important Updates Regarding Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Data in ACO-MS](#)
- [Tell Us About Your QPP Submissions Experience](#)
- [Understanding Medicare Shared Savings Program Compliance Toolkit: Now Available](#)
- [Combatting the Opioid Overdose Epidemic: Tools and Resources for Emergency Departments](#)
- [Reminder: ACOs Automatically Registered for CMS Web Interface and CAHPS for MIPS Survey for 2022 Performance Period](#)
- [May CCLF Files](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

Important Updates Regarding Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Data in ACO-MS

CMS will continue to incorporate updates for ACO participant and Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) affiliate Medicare enrollment information and SNF star ratings under the CMS 5-star Quality Rating System in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#) during the upcoming Change Request Cycle and Phase 1 of the application cycle. Please note that updates to ACO participant and SNF affiliate Medicare enrollment information and SNF star ratings will be available in ACO-MS by the first of each month.

September 9, 2022, is the final deadline for ACOs to rectify or delete any non-Medicare-enrolled ACO participant(s) and SNF affiliate(s) or any SNF affiliate(s) with an overall rating below 3 stars. Failure to do so will result in CMS taking compliance action after September 9, 2022, to remove the ACO participant(s) and/or SNF affiliate(s) from your ACO Participant List and/or SNF Affiliate List.

Note: ACOs applying to renew with a start date of January 1, 2023, will receive feedback on proposed ACO participants and SNF affiliates (if applicable), including their Medicare enrollment status and SNF star ratings, during Phase 1 of the application cycle. ACOs that apply to renew should plan to follow Phase 1 application cycle deadlines for reviewing and addressing any deficiencies identified by CMS.

ACOs may refer to the recent *ACO Spotlight Newsletter* article, “Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Data Updated in ACO-MS,” published on January 12, 2022, for further instructions and information on how to access and review Medicare enrollment and SNF star rating information in ACO-MS. This article also includes actions that ACOs may consider for addressing non-Medicare-enrolled ACO participants and SNF affiliates and SNF affiliates below 3 stars. To locate this previous article, navigate to the *Spotlight Newsletters* section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS, select “[MSSP ACO Spotlight Newsletter - 2022/01](#),” and download Issue 1 (January 12, 2022).

ACOs should contact their ACO Coordinators with questions regarding Medicare enrollment and SNF star rating updates in ACO-MS.

Tell Us About Your QPP Submissions Experience

Have you recently submitted data to the QPP? Share your experience.

The goal of this survey is to help CMS better understand the data submissions experiences of Quality Payment Program (QPP) participants who submitted data for Performance Year (PY) 2021, including Shared Savings Program ACOs. Your responses will help us identify areas for improvement and enhance the QPP participation experience.

Results will be reported in such a way that no single individual, group, or entity can be identified. This survey is conducted by outside contractors, and participation is completely voluntary and confidential. Your decision to participate or not to participate in this survey will not affect any pending or future determinations. This survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

Click here to take the [QPP Submissions Experience Survey](#).

Thank you, your feedback is essential to understanding how CMS can best serve QPP participants. If you have any questions, please reach out to qppuserresearch@cms.hhs.gov.

Understanding Medicare Shared Savings Program Compliance Toolkit: Now Available

A new toolkit, [Understanding Medicare Shared Savings Program Compliance](#), is now available for ACOs in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#). This toolkit provides additional information on the Shared Savings Program compliance monitoring process, including an overview of some areas that CMS monitors, an introduction to the range of compliance action types that CMS issues, and helpful tips for ACOs to maintain compliance with program requirements.

Additionally, ACOs may continue to refer to the [Managing Compliance Actions in ACO-MS tip sheet](#), available in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS, for general information on how to access, review, and respond to compliance actions issued in ACO-MS.

Combatting the Opioid Overdose Epidemic: Tools and Resources for Emergency Departments

CMS is committed to exploring and offering viable options to address the opioid overdose crisis and to protect affected beneficiaries and communities. CMS encourages you to share the following tools and resources that your ACO participants can use in the Emergency Department (ED) to improve care for patients with opioid use disorder:

- 1) Studies have shown that treatment of opioid use disorder with buprenorphine reduces risk for opioid overdose and death. Both the [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\) website](#) and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) website](#) contain useful resources for ACO and ACO participants to start a buprenorphine program in the ED.
- 2) Toolkits, best practice pocket cards, and more resources to support ACO participants can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website through its [Module 11: Fostering Collaborative Patient-Provider Relationships in Pain Management and Opioid Prescribing](#).

Reminder: ACOs Automatically Registered for CMS Web Interface and CAHPS for MIPS Survey for 2022 Performance Period

Registration is open for the CMS Web Interface and Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Survey for the 2022 performance period.

Shared Savings Program ACOs don't need to register. Shared Savings Program ACOs are automatically registered for the CMS Web Interface and CAHPS for MIPS Survey, as they're required to meet reporting requirements for the quality performance category under the Alternative Payment Model (APM) Performance Pathway (APP).

- While Shared Savings Program ACOs are automatically registered for the CMS Web Interface, they aren't required to report their quality data via the CMS Web Interface. Alternatively, they can choose to meet the APP quality requirements by reporting the three required electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) or MIPS clinical quality measures (MIPS CQMs).
- The CAHPS for MIPS Survey is required under the APP. Though automatically registered, Shared Savings Program ACOs will still need to hire a CMS-approved vendor to administer the CAHPS for MIPS Survey.

May CCLF Files

May Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files for the PY 2022 assignable or prospectively assigned beneficiaries will be made available to ACOs in the Data Hub tab of [ACO-MS](#). The May delivery timeline for the CCLF, Exclusion, and Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Cross-reference (XREF) files is as follows:

FILE	DELIVERY	FILE NAMING CONVENTION	DATA HUB PY	USER FRIENDLY FILE NAMING CONVENTION
PY 2022 Beneficiary Exclusion and MBI XREF files	Week of May 9 th	P.A****.ACO.MBIY22.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.Y22.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2022	Excluded Beneficiary MBI XREF File delivered in May 2022 (txt) Beneficiary Data Sharing Exclusion File delivered in May 2022 (xml)
PY 2022 CCLFs	Week of May 16 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCY22.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2022	CCLF delivered in May 2022 (zip)

ACOs should refer to the [CCLF Information Packet \(IP\)](#), Version 33 (V33) and the [ACO and ACO-OS Data Exchange User Guide](#) (DEUG), V11 for additional information on the CCLF and Exclusion files. The CCLF IP and the DEUG are available in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS. For technical assistance, please contact the ACO Information Center using the ACO-MS Helpdesk Icon (located within the ACO-MS banner) or call 1-888-734-6433 (Option 1).

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SSP ACO Learning System Webinar: Organization-level Action Steps for Provider Burnout

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022, 3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** Shared Savings Program ACO staff
- **Description:** Join us for a webinar exploring common drivers of provider burnout and organization-level approaches ACOs can take to address root causes. ACO presenters will discuss strategies they use to assess burnout among ACO providers and how they work within their organizations to promote a culture of well-being. This event is open to all Shared Savings Program ACO staff; however, clinical leaders, administrators, and staff working on provider engagement or well-being initiatives may be most interested in attending. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions during the webinar.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

ACO Coordinator

To help ACOs navigate questions regarding the Shared Savings Program, **please contact your ACO Coordinator as your first line of contact.** These additional resources are also available:

ACO Information Center

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

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. ET

- 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/TTD)

Quality Payment Program Service Center

QPP@cms.hhs.gov

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET; non-peak hours: before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. ET.

- 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

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.

Section 508 Disclaimer: This document and information contained therein may not adhere to Section 508 Compliance standards and guidelines for accessibility by persons who are visually impaired. Those who are visually impaired should contact the ACO Information Center at 1-888-734-6433 (Option 1) for assistance.