

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Phase 1 RFI-1 Closes:**
12:00 p.m. ET on August 4, 2022
- **Phase 1 RFI-2 Closes:**
12:00 p.m. ET on September 9, 2022
- **CAHPS® for MIPS Vendor Authorization:**
by 8:00 p.m. ET on September 14, 2022

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Strategies for eCQM/CQM Reporting**
August 3rd | 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **Leveraging Patient Registries for Complex Patient Management**
August 16th | 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [CAHPS® for MIPS Vendor Authorization Tool: Open August 9th](#)
- [PY 2023 Change Request Cycle: RFI-1 Response Due at 12:00 p.m. ET on August 4, 2022](#)
- [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Ability to Remain in Level A or Level B of the BASIC Track](#)
- [How to Review Participation Options Information Applicable to PY 2023 in ACO-MS](#)
- [Prevent and Report Potential Fraud](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

CAHPS® for MIPS Vendor Authorization Tool: Open August 9th

On August 9, 2022, the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) vendor authorization tool will open. Each ACO's Primary Authorized to Sign (ATS) contact (unless a Primary ATS was not designated, in those instances, the link will be sent to the Secondary ATS or ACO Executive) will receive an individualized link to access the online Vendor Authorization Tool from mips-cahps@rand.org. Your ACO's Primary ATS contact, or their designee, must authorize a vendor using the web-based Vendor Authorization Tool by **Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)**. If you have questions about selecting a survey vendor or completing the vendor authorization process, please contact mips-cahps@rand.org, or (888) 580-7732, or your ACO Coordinator.

PY 2023 Change Request Cycle: RFI-1 Response Due at 12:00 p.m. ET on August 4, 2022

CMS issued the Phase 1 first request for information (RFI-1). There are certain actions ACOs can take in response to each RFI. RFIs are assigned in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#) and provide ACOs opportunities to update and correct application information. ACOs are also able to submit SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver narratives (if applicable) and review the *Participation Options Report* in ACO-MS.

During the Phase 1 RFI-1 response period, **which closes on August 4th at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET**, ACOs will have the **final opportunity** to:

- Add ACO participant and/or Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) affiliate taxpayer identification numbers (TINs) and CMS Certification Numbers (CCNs).
- Elect to apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver.

The [Requests for Information in ACO-MS tip sheet](#) provides information on how to respond to RFIs in ACO-MS. Even if your ACO did not receive any RFIs on previously submitted tasks, take this time to review Phase 1 data elements and modify them as needed.

Application Resources

- [Application Types & Timeline webpage](#)
- [Application Toolkit webpage](#)
- [Submitting Change Requests in ACO-MS tip sheet](#)
- [Change Request Cycle for Performance Year Beginning on January 1, 2023](#)
- [Key Application Actions and Deadlines](#)

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).

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Ability to Remain in Level A or Level B of the BASIC Track

CMS is proposing in the *Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule* that ACOs currently participating in the BASIC track at Level A or Level B for Performance Year (PY) 2022 have the option to elect to remain in their current level of the BASIC track glide path for PY 2023 and continue at this level for the remainder of the ACO's current agreement period. (Please review the [fact sheet](#) for details.) The annual Application and Change Request Cycle for PY 2023 began June 8, 2022.

Accordingly, eligible ACOs in Level A or Level B of the BASIC track's glide path will have the opportunity to indicate interest in continuing participation at their current level during the current change request cycle. **If the proposed policy is finalized**, the election will not require CMS adjudication, and your ACO will remain at its current participation (Level A or Level B) for the remainder of the ACO's current agreement period unless the ACO elects to transition to a higher level of risk and potential reward within the BASIC track's glide path.

Starting July 22, 2022, eligible ACOs that want to indicate interest in the proposed policy to remain in their current Level A or Level B participation of the BASIC track's glide path must do so via [ACO-MS](#) following the instructions below.

- Navigate to the My ACOs tab of ACO-MS.
- Click on the applicable ACO.
- During both Phase 1 RFI response periods, eligible ACOs will see a banner describing the voluntary election.
- Click on the banner to remain in current Level A or Level B of the BASIC track.
- Confirm the selection when prompted.
- Once confirmed, **and if the proposed policy is finalized**, the change will automatically take effect in ACO-MS, as this election does not require CMS adjudication. The banner will then become a read-only message confirming the ACO's election.

The last opportunity to indicate interest in remaining in Level A or Level B of the BASIC track's glide path in ACO-MS is **September 9, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET**. If this proposed policy is not finalized and your ACO is required to advance from Level A or Level B to a two-sided risk model for PY 2023, your ACO will have a limited opportunity to submit a repayment mechanism, resolve any deficiencies, and have it approved in time for the start of the performance year.

If you have any questions about ACO-MS or require technical assistance, click the ACO-MS Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner), or call 1-888-734-6433 (select Option 1), or TTY/TDD 1-888-734-6563.

How to Review Participation Options Information Applicable to PY 2023 in ACO-MS

CMS provided all ACOs with a *Participation Options Report* at the release of RFI-1 in [ACO-MS](#) that is applicable for PY 2023. ACOs should review this report for any changes to their participation eligibility, including changes to their revenue determination, which may impact their participation in the program. This report is also designed to help ACOs evaluate future participation options.

For more information about the report, download the *PY 2023 Participation Options Report Data Dictionary*, which can be found in both the Application Cycle subtab (via the information bubble) and the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS with the release of RFI-1.

The *Participation Options Report* Excel file has four tabs:

- 50% ACO Composition (TIN level)
- 40% Risk Check (TIN level)
- Estimate of High or Low Revenue (TIN level)
- ACO Summary (ACO-level summary of the first three tabs, plus track eligibility and assignment counts)

Accessing the Participation Options Report

Option 1: Application Cycle subtab (note that only information from the ACO Summary tab of the *Participation Options Report* is available through this method)

- Navigate to the My ACOs tab on the left-side menu and select your ACO.
- Select the Application Cycle subtab.
- Select 2023 in the program year drop-down menu to access participation options information.

Option 2: *Participation Options Report* (the full *Participation Options Report* with all four tabs is available through this method)

- Navigate to the Reporting tab on the left-side menu.
- Select your ACO from the drop-down menu.
- Select 2023 in the program year drop-down menu to access information for PY 2023. Select .xlsx format (the report is not available in .csv format).
- Select the *Participation Options Report* to download the report.

The *Participation Options Report* will also be available in future RFIs.

Prevent and Report Potential Fraud

An ACO can help prevent fraud and abuse by ensuring there is “a method for employees or contractors of the ACO, ACO participants, ACO providers/suppliers, and other individuals or entities performing functions or services related to ACO activities to anonymously report suspected problems related to the ACO to the compliance officer,” per [42 CFR § 425.300\(a\)\(3\)](#).

ACOs are encouraged to report potential fraud or abuse by submitting a complaint to the [Office of Inspector General \(OIG\) website](#), OIG hotline at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477), or TTY at 1-800-377-4950, by fax at 1-800-223-8164, or by mailing to:

Office of Inspector General
ATTN: OIG HOTLINE OPERATIONS
P.O. Box 23489
Washington, DC 20026

ACOs suspecting healthcare fraud, waste, or abuse are encouraged to visit the [CMS Center for Program Integrity \(CPI\) website](#) for more information.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SSP ACO Learning System Webinar: Strategies for eCQM/CQM Reporting

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

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all Shared Savings Program ACO staff members, though team members supporting quality reporting may be most interested in attending.
- **Description:** The SSP ACO Learning System is hosting a webinar exploring ACO strategies for reporting clinical quality measures (CQMs) and electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). Presenters from ACOs will discuss their experience in reporting eCQM/CQMs for the CY 2021 reporting period. This includes describing their efforts to

transform their data systems and engage participating providers in quality reporting and improvement efforts, and CMS resources and tools they used to support eCQM/CQM implementation. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions to learn more about how ACOs overcame challenges they encountered as eCQM/CQM implementation progressed.

SSP ACO Learning System Webinar: Leveraging Patient Registries for Complex Care Management

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022, 3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all Shared Savings Program ACO staff members, though team members supporting care coordination or data management may be most interested in attending.
- **Description:** The SSP ACO Learning System is hosting a webinar highlighting ACOs' strategies for applying patient registry data to complex care-management goals. Presenters from ACOs will discuss their experiences building infrastructure and designing workflows to support care coordination for beneficiaries with complex needs, such as chronic conditions. Presenters will also review approaches to analyzing registry data to assess overall population health and identify beneficiaries with complex needs. 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 MIPS 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.