

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **ACO Signing Event: December 6, 2021, by 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET**

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CCLF Files Expansion Webinar**
December 8th | 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **SSP ACO Learning System Webinar: Strategies to Identify and Address HRSN**
December 15th | 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [ACO Signing Event Period Now Open Through December 6, 2021](#)
- [PY 2022 Updates to Assignment List Report and Assignment Summary Report](#)
- [Managing Changes to the ACO During the Agreement Period Guidance: Now Available in ACO-MS](#)
- [Check Your Initial 2022 MIPS Eligibility on the QPP Website](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

ACO Signing Event Period Now Open Through December 6, 2021

Prior to the start of a new performance year (and at the end of a performance year for existing ACOs), the Shared Savings Program requires all active ACOs and certain terminating ACOs to review, certify, and electronically sign documents related to their participation in the Shared Savings Program. ACOs approved for a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 3-Day Rule Waiver and/or Beneficiary Incentive Program (BIP) will need to sign additional documentation.

The following ACOs have actions to take during the ACO Signing Event period in advance of Performance Year (PY) 2022:

- All currently participating ACOs in the Shared Savings Program. **This cohort includes ACOs that have elected to maintain, or “freeze,” their participation in the same level of the BASIC track’s glide path that they entered for PY 2021.**
- All terminating ACOs with a termination date on or before December 31, 2021, that will be reconciled.

The ACO Signing Event period is now open and will end on **Monday, December 6, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time (ET)**. The ACOs outlined above should log into the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#) to review and sign their ACO Signing Event documents. **All ACO Signing Event activities must be completed by December 6, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.**

Refer to the [ACO Signing Event Instructions](#) and [How to Review and Certify the ACO Participant List and ACO Provider/Supplier List in ACO-MS](#) tip sheet, located on the [Application Toolkit webpage](#), for additional information.

Confirm That Signatory Contacts Can Log into ACO-MS

ACOs should confirm that an individual is assigned to each of the ACO Signing Event signatory contact types in ACO-MS: **ACO Executive, Authorized to Sign Contacts (primary and secondary), Data Use Agreement (DUA) Requestor, and DUA Custodian**. If a signatory contact is not assigned or needs to be updated, any ACO user with administrative privileges—ACO Executive, CMS Liaison, Authorized to Sign Contacts (primary and secondary), and the Application Contacts (primary and secondary)—can add or edit an ACO’s contacts.

For additional information on how to update contacts or how to add users to ACO-MS, refer to the tip sheet [Overview of ACO-MS User Access and ACO Contacts](#), on the Application Toolkit webpage.

Review Your ACO's Data

Your ACO should review its ACO Participant List, ACO Provider/Supplier List, and SNF Affiliate List (if applicable). ACOs are able to review and edit the ACO Provider/Supplier List for PY 2022. CMS strongly encourages ACOs to allocate enough time and resources to thoroughly review their ACO Participant List, ACO Provider/Supplier List, and SNF Affiliate List (if applicable).

An ACO can no longer make changes to its ACO Participant List or SNF Affiliate List during the ACO Signing Event because the deadline to do so has passed.

Additional Assistance

If you have general ACO Signing Event questions, please contact your ACO Coordinator as your first line of contact. These additional resources are also available for general questions and technical support: Submit an electronic inquiry by clicking 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.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII) reminder: When emailing files, forms, or other documents that contain any health or personal information, please remember to encrypt the document before emailing it.

PY 2022 Updates to Assignment List Report and Assignment Summary Report

CMS has implemented the following changes and enhancements for the PY 2022 Assignment List Report (ALR) and Assignment Summary Report (ASR) beginning with the PY 2022 Initial Assignment Reports. Changes to the reports are applicable to both quarterly and annual reports unless otherwise specified below.

- ALR:
 - The ASG_Status (Newly Assigned Beneficiary Flag) variable will no longer be populated in ALR Table 1-1. This field will remain present but will appear blank. This variable was previously only populated in annual reports for Financial Reconciliation and will no longer be used as a part of the methodology beginning with PY 2022 Financial Reconciliation.
 - The MISSING_ID_EXCLUDED (Beneficiary Identifier is Missing) variable in ALR Table 1-1 will be renamed to OTHER_REASONS_EXCLUDED (Beneficiary Excluded Due to Other Reasons Not Listed) to capture all other reasons for exclusion for prospectively assigned beneficiaries. This variable is only included for ACOs under prospective assignment.
 - A beneficiary-level Long-Term Institutionalized Status (LTI_STATUS) variable will be added to the end of ALR Table 1-1. This variable will only be populated in ALRs included in Historical Benchmark and Financial Reconciliation Report Packages.
 - A Beneficiary Race Code variable (BENE_RACE_CD) will be added to the end of ALR Table 1-1.
- ASR:
 - To simplify reports and streamline information that is already included in ALR Tables 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4, ASR Tables 2-2 and 2-3 will be removed.
 - The ACO-level summarized values for the Beneficiary Race Code variable will be added to ASR Table 2-4.

Managing Changes to the ACO During the Agreement Period Guidance: Now Available in ACO-MS

While participating in the Shared Savings Program, an ACO may need to manage changes to the ACO during the agreement period, including changes that could require updates to its Shared Savings Program ACO Participation Agreement. Per [42 CFR § 425.214](#), a "significant change" occurs when an ACO is no longer able to meet the eligibility or requirements of the Shared Savings Program. For example, changes in an ACO's legal entity or ownership may result in a significant change.

A new tip sheet, [Managing Changes to the ACO During the Agreement Period](#), is available to ACOs in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#). This document provides ACOs guidance on managing changes to the ACO during the agreement period and instructions on what documents are requested for entity information change requests in ACO-MS. The guidance document can be used with its companion tip sheet [Managing ACO Entity Information in ACO-MS](#), available in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS, that provides information about managing changes to the ACO entity and notifying CMS of such changes. Additionally, the [Submitting Change Requests in ACO-MS](#) tip sheet, available in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS, has helpful information about how to submit change requests in ACO-MS.

Check Your Initial 2022 MIPS Eligibility on the QPP Website

You can now use the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#) to check your initial 2022 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligibility status.

- Enter your National Provider Identifier (NPI) to find out whether you need to participate in MIPS during the 2022 performance year.

To be eligible to participate in MIPS in 2022, you must:

- Bill more than \$90,000 a year in allowed charges for covered professional services under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS); **and**
- Furnish covered professional services to more than 200 Medicare Part B beneficiaries; **and**
- Provide more than 200 covered professional services under the PFS.

If you do not exceed all three of the above criteria for 2022 performance year, you are excluded from MIPS. However, you have the opportunity to opt-in to MIPS and receive a payment adjustment if you meet or exceed one or two, but not all, of the low-volume threshold criteria. Alternatively, you may choose to voluntarily report to MIPS and not receive a payment adjustment if you do not meet any of the low-volume threshold criteria or if you meet some, but not all, of the criteria.

Find Out Today

Find out today whether you are eligible for MIPS. Prepare now to earn a positive payment adjustment in 2024 for your 2022 performance.

Note: The [QPP Participation Status Tool](#) will be updated with clinicians' Qualifying APM Participant (QP) status three times during the performance year.

Questions?

Please contact the Quality Payment Program (QPP) at 1-866-288-8292 (Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET) or by email at: QPP@cms.hhs.gov. To receive assistance more quickly, consider calling during non-peak hours—before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. ET. Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a telecommunications relay service (TRS) Communications Assistant.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCLF Files Expansion Webinar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021, 1:30 P.M.–2:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs
- **Description:** The Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files will be expanding in January 2022 to include additional variables. The December webinar will provide updates to materials recently presented at the CCLF Files Expansion webinar on September 15, 2021. CMS will give an overview of the layout expansion, new elements, and changes in approach. Based on stakeholder feedback, CMS will not be making select variables null, but instead continue to deliver this data. Updates to the Substance Abuse codes used for claims exclusion beginning January 2022 will also

be outlined. The webinar will include a question-and-answer session with subject matter experts to address questions related to the CCLF files. CMS strongly encourages technical staff routinely consuming and analyzing CCLF files to attend in order to prepare for system readiness.

SSP ACO Learning System Webinar: Strategies to Identify and Address Beneficiaries' Health-Related Social Needs

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021, 3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** Shared Savings Program ACOs, Direct Contracting Entities, Kidney Contracting Entities, and CMS Kidney Care First Practices
- **Description:** Join a webinar exploring how ACOs use non-medical care strategies to address beneficiaries' health-related social needs (HRSN) and improve social determinants of health (SDOH). Panelists from multiple ACOs will describe their action steps to build SDOH initiatives, including efforts to address housing instability and food insecurity, and discuss solutions to common challenges to delivering care to address HRSN. This event is open to all SSP ACO staff; although, leadership, administrators, and staff working on SDOH-related 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, 7:00 a.m.–7:00 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

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