

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **CMS Web Interface Reporting Period**
January 3, 2022–March 31, 2022

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CCLF Files Overview Webinar**
January 19th | 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [PY 2022 Initial Assignment List Report and Assignment Summary Report Packages: Delivered December 10th](#)
- [PY 2021 CMS Web Interface Patient Sample Excel Files: Available December 21st](#)
- [Reminder: Set Up Your ACO's HARP Account for PY 2021 Quality Reporting](#)
- [ACO-MS Voluntary Terminations Enhancements: Available December 16th](#)
- [PY 2021 Q3 Opioid Utilization Report: Delivered December 8th](#)
- [ACO-MS API Key Management/Command Line Interface Tool to Download CCLF Files](#)
- [December CCLF Files](#)
- [BOSC Customer Satisfaction Survey Expanded to All Shared Savings Program Inquiries](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

PY 2022 Initial Assignment List Report and Assignment Summary Report Packages: Delivered December 10th

CMS delivered the ACOs' Performance Year (PY) 2022 Initial Assignment List Report (ALR) and Assignment Summary Report (ASR) Package on December 10, 2021. The report package was sent as a zip file and included a cover notice, ALR (zip), and ASR.

For additional information about the PY 2022 Report Package, please reference the accompanying cover notice and the [Assignment List Report and Assignment Summary Report User's Guides](#), Version 13 (V13) located in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#).

The zip file containing the program reports delivered to your ACO is accessible through the Data Hub tab in ACO-MS. The zip file is named per the following convention: "P.Axxxx.ACO.HASSGN.D229999.T000000." Note that the zip file's name includes a date stamp beginning with "D22," where the "22" indicates the applicable performance year, PY 2022. ACOs may access this file by navigating to the ACO-MS Data Hub, selecting your ACO, and selecting "2022" from the program year drop-down menu.

Refer to the cover notice included in your report package for more information on assignment changes applicable for PY 2022.

PY 2021 CMS Web Interface Patient Sample Excel Files: Available December 21st

On December 21, 2021, CMS will deliver a CMS Web Interface Patient Sample Excel file (formerly known as the CMS Web Interface Beneficiary Sample Excel file) to each ACO reporting quality for PY 2021. The file contains the same patient sample that will be available through the CMS Web Interface at the start of the CMS Web Interface reporting

period beginning January 3, 2022, and ending March 31, 2022. This sample is provided in advance so ACOs may begin locating the patient records they will need for quality reporting via the CMS Web Interface.

The Patient Sample file will be delivered through your [ACO-MS](#) Data Hub mailbox in a similar binary format as in previous years and will contain:

- A list of the assigned patients who were sampled for CMS Web Interface reporting
- The patient rank for each of the measures into which the patient was sampled
- The taxpayer identification number (TIN) or CMS Certification Number (CCN) at which the patient received the most primary care services
- The names and National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the three providers who provided the plurality of primary care services to the patient

After the close of business on December 21, 2021, please check the Reports section of the Data Hub tab in ACO-MS to download your ACO's Patient Sample according to the following convention: "P.A#####.ACO.PATB. D219999.T#####."

Reminder: Set Up Your ACO's HARP Account for PY 2021 Quality Reporting

The submission period for PY 2021 quality reporting **opens January 3, 2022, and closes on March 31, 2022.**

- For PY 2021, all Shared Savings Program ACOs are required to report quality measures under the Alternative Payment Model (APM) Performance Pathway (APP)—either the 10 CMS Web Interface measures or the three electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)/Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) CQMs—by logging in to the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) website](#).
- The quality measures reported under the APP will be used to determine the ACO's quality performance for purposes of calculating shared savings and shared losses under the Shared Savings Program, as well as MIPS payment adjustments, if applicable.

Who Needs a HARP Account?

Each individual associated with a Shared Savings Program ACO who needs to access the QPP website to submit the ACO's quality measures data required under the Shared Savings Program and download the ACO's CMS Web Interface Patient Samples needs a Health Care Quality Information System (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) account. These individuals would also be able to access the ACO's MIPS performance feedback and request a targeted review. These personnel may include practice staff, abstractors, or other third-party representatives. ACOs that do not have any individuals with a HARP account will be unable to report the required quality measure data through the QPP website.

Each ACO must have **at least one individual** with the QPP Security Official role. Additional individuals who need access to the QPP website may be invited to obtain the QPP Security Official or QPP Staff User role.

ACOs have access to manage their HARP Security Official and Staff User roles in [ACO-MS](#). ACO-MS allows specific ACO contacts (ACO Executive, Authorized to Sign Contacts (Primary and Secondary), Application Contacts (Primary and Secondary), and CMS Liaison) to invite individuals to obtain a HARP account with a QPP Security Official or QPP Staff User role in order to access the QPP website. Individuals associated with Shared Savings Program no longer need to create a HARP account for these roles or manage their roles via the QPP website. Users can also use the same login credentials to access both ACO-MS and the QPP website.

Existing HARP Users

On November 4, 2021, the account and role information for individuals who had an existing HARP account with a Security Official or Staff User role were migrated to ACO-MS. These users were automatically set up with the appropriate role(s) associated with their ACO(s) in ACO-MS. Please log in to ACO-MS and confirm your contact information and user role. These individuals will not need to maintain separate login credentials and may use their same HARP credentials (username and password) to log in to ACO-MS.

New HARP Users

All individuals who need to access the QPP website should contact one of the ACO contacts specified above to request an invitation to obtain a QPP Security Official or QPP Staff User role and manage their QPP roles in ACO-MS. These individuals can then access the QPP website by signing in with their ACO-MS login credentials.

Next Steps for an ACO

Each ACO should check their QPP Security Official and QPP Staff User contacts in ACO-MS as soon as possible to confirm that the contacts are up to date and that the individual(s) who will submit the ACO's PY 2021 quality measures data are listed as either the QPP Security Official or QPP Staff User contacts.

Next, the individual(s) should sign in to the QPP website using their ACO-MS credentials to confirm that they have access to the appropriate organizations.

If an ACO does not have a QPP Security Official contact listed in ACO-MS, then you are encouraged to identify at least one individual within the ACO who can be invited by one of the ACO contacts specified above to become the QPP Security Official contact as soon as possible. If you wish to have additional individuals submit the ACO's quality data and download the CMS Web Interface Patient Samples, those individuals may be invited to become the QPP Security Official or QPP Staff User contact.

Resources

For information on the functions you can perform with these roles in the QPP website, please refer to the [Creating and Managing Quality Payment Program Contacts in ACO-MS](#) tip sheet available in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS.

For guidance on how to add the QPP Security Official and QPP Staff User role contacts to an ACO in ACO-MS, refer to the [Overview of ACO-MS User Access and ACO Contacts](#) tip sheet.

For general questions, please submit an electronic inquiry by logging in to ACO-MS and clicking the Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner) or call the ACO Information Center at 1-888-734-6433 (Option 1).

ACO-MS Voluntary Terminations Enhancements: Available December 16th

Beginning December 16, 2021, ACOs that submit a voluntary termination request in [ACO-MS](#) will be required to review, certify, and electronically sign applicable documents related to their participation in the Shared Savings Program. Additionally, ACOs will also be able to upload closeout-related documents directly into ACO-MS at the same time they submit their termination request.

ACOs terminating their participation in the Shared Savings Program should download and review the [Medicare Shared Savings Program Voluntary Terminations](#) document, available in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS, to learn about voluntary termination requirements ([42 CFR § 425.221](#)), closeout procedures, and payment consequences of early termination. ACOs that have already submitted a termination request in ACO-MS may begin to complete the closeout procedures outlined in the *Medicare Shared Savings Program Voluntary Terminations* document. ACOs will receive a termination acknowledgement notification via email after the ACO-MS terminations enhancements are completed. Contact your ACO Coordinator with any questions.

How to Notify CMS of the Intent to Voluntarily Terminate

In order to notify CMS of the ACO's intent to voluntarily terminate from the Shared Savings Program, the ACO Executive or Authorized to Sign Contracts (Primary or Secondary) must submit a voluntary termination request in ACO-MS. For step-by-step instructions, review the [Submitting a Voluntary Termination Notice in ACO-MS](#) tip sheet, found in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS.

PY 2021 Q3 Opioid Utilization Report: Delivered December 8th

CMS released the informational-only PY 2021 Quarter 3 (Q3) Opioid Utilization Report Package on December 8, 2021. The report package was delivered to your ACO as a zip file that includes a cover notice and the opioid report. The report

is accessible through the [ACO-MS Data Hub](#). The download is titled “Opioid Measures Report (zip).” The zip file is named with the following convention: “P.Axxxx.ACO.QQR.” This file will be available through the ACO-MS Data Hub indefinitely.

There was a 21.61 percent decrease between PY 2020 Q3 and PY 2021 Q3 in ACO assigned beneficiaries with continuous Part D coverage who met any of the measure criteria.

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.

ACO-MS API Key Management/Command Line Interface Tool to Download CCLF Files

CMS will release the “API Key Management/Command Line Interface (CLI) Tool,” a new file-delivery mechanism, on December 17, 2021, for Shared Savings Program ACOs. The new feature will enable the ACOs to create an [ACO-MS](#) Application Programming Interface (API) credential key and download the new CLI tool. Users will be able to use the CLI tool to download the Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files and program reports from the Data Hub without logging into ACO-MS. Supporting documentation including an API tip sheet and User Guide will be available within the ACO-MS Knowledge Library with the December 17th release.

CMS conducted a webinar titled *API Key Management/CLI Tool for Data Hub* on November 30, 2021. The [webinar slides](#) providing more details on the new feature are now available in the Webinar section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS.

December CCLF Files

The December CCLF files for PY 2021 assignable or prospectively assigned beneficiaries became available to ACOs on December 15th in the Data Hub tab in [ACO-MS](#). The December 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
PY2021 Beneficiary Exclusion and MBI XREF files	December 10 th	P.A****.ACO.MBIY21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.Y21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021	Excluded Beneficiary MBI XREF File delivered in December 2021 (txt) Beneficiary Data Sharing Exclusion File delivered in December 2021 (xml)
PY2021 CCLFs	December 15 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCY21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021	CCLF delivered in December 2021 (zip)

ACOs should refer to the [CCLF Information Packet \(IP\)](#), V32 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).

BOSC Customer Satisfaction Survey Expanded to All Shared Savings Program Inquiries

On December 15th, the Business Operations Support Center (BOSC) Help Desk will move to the next phase of the ServiceNow (SNow) customer satisfaction survey to expand feedback on all Shared Savings Program inquiries once they are moved to a state of “Resolved” in ServiceNow. The feedback received will be used to improve delivery and provide users with the best possible service.

What will the recipient of the survey expect to see?

Upon resolving a SNow case, the user will receive an email from CMSITSM@cms.hhs.gov with an embedded link to the secure CMS Connect site to complete the survey. The user will be presented with five standard questions, rated on a scale from 1–5, and a comment text box. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete. After completion and subsequent submission, the user will receive an acknowledgment that the survey was submitted.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCLF Files Overview Webinar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022, 1:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** CCLF Users
- **Description:** CMS will provide detailed information on the data contained within CCLF files. All CCLF users are welcome to attend; however, this presentation is geared towards new participants with 2022 start dates. CMS strongly encourages technical staff routinely consuming and analyzing data to attend to prepare system readiness for receipt of CCLF files. More experienced users of CCLFs may find this event repetitive.

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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