

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **PY 2022 Public Reporting Deadline:**
February 11, 2022
- **Seeking ACO Speakers for an ACO Learning System Spring Webinar:**
February 11, 2022
- **CMS Web Interface Submission:**
March 31, 2022

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CMS Web Interface Data Submission Support Calls**
February 23rd | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
March 9th | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
March 23rd | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [PY 2021 Q4 Report Package: Now Available](#)
- [Shared Savings and Losses and Assignment Methodology Specifications: Updated](#)
- [Notice of One-Time Opportunity to Decrease Repayment Mechanism Amount](#)
- [Corrected IRS 1099 Forms Issued](#)
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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

PY 2021 Q4 Report Package: Now Available

On February 10, 2022, CMS released the Performance Year (PY) 2021 Quarter 4 (Q4) report packages to ACOs in the Data Hub tab in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#). The report packages were sent as a zip file and included the following:

- Cover notice
- Assignment List Report (ALR)
- Assignment Summary Report (ASR)
- Aggregate Expenditure/Utilization Report (EXPU)
- Beneficiary Expenditure Utilization Report (BEUR)
- Non-Claims Based Payment (NCBP) file

Note: ACOs without Non-Claims Based Payments during the report period will not receive the NCBP file.

ACOs can find their PY 2021 Q4 report packages under “PY 2021” in the Data Hub tab in ACO-MS with the file name “P.Axxxx.ACO.QEXPU.D219999.T0400000.” The “D219999” indicates the reports are applicable for PY 2021, and “T0400000” indicates the reports are applicable to Q4 of PY 2021.

For additional information about the Q4 report package, reference the Q4 cover notice and the most recently available report user’s guides:

- [Assignment List Report and Assignment Summary Report User’s Guide](#) (PDF)
- [Annual and Quarterly Aggregate Expenditure/Utilization and Beneficiary Expenditure/Utilization Reports User’s Guide](#) (PDF)

These report user’s guides provide detailed information about the data elements included in the referenced program reports. They can be found in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS by searching “Report User’s Guides” and then selecting “Performance Year 2021 Report User’s Guides.”

Shared Savings and Losses and Assignment Methodology Specifications: Updated

CMS is planning to post this week Version 10 (V10) of the *Shared Savings and Losses and Assignment Methodology Specifications* on the Shared Savings Program's [Program Guidance & Specifications webpage](#).

This resource provides updates on the Shared Savings Program's beneficiary assignment and financial methodology relevant to ACOs participating in a performance year beginning on January 1, 2022, and subsequent performance years for changes included in the [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2022 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule \(86 FR 64996\)](#).

Notice of One-Time Opportunity to Decrease Repayment Mechanism Amount

ACOs that are eligible for a one-time opportunity to decrease their repayment mechanism amount received notification earlier this week because these ACOs established a repayment mechanism to support their participation in a two-sided model beginning on July 1, 2019, January 1, 2020, or January 1, 2021, and the recalculated repayment mechanism amount for PY 2022 is less than the ACO's existing repayment mechanism amount. (Refer to [42 CFR § 425.204\(f\)\(4\)\(v\)](#).) ACOs can log into [ACO-MS](#) to access and review the formal notice and detailed instructions on next steps.

To locate the notice, go to the Documents tab in ACO-MS. Log into ACO-MS and navigate to the My ACOs tab (displayed on the landing page). Input your ACO ID number and click on your ACO ID tile for the ACO snapshot to appear. Locate and click the Documents tab. Select the Repayment Mechanism Document in the drop down of the first box labeled Agreement Documents. Locate the ACO-specific documentation regarding the Notice of One-Time Opportunity to Decrease Repayment Mechanism Amount.

If an ACO elects to pursue the one-time repayment mechanism amount decrease opportunity, the ACO must use the Request to Edit Repayment Mechanism task in ACO-MS to submit documentation to CMS **no later than Thursday, March 10, 2022**.

As described in the notice, if an ACO takes no action to submit uploaded revised repayment mechanism documentation by the specified deadline, CMS will consider the ACO to have declined the one-time repayment mechanism amount decrease opportunity. Although no action is required by an ACO that declines this opportunity, ACOs may close-out the Request to Edit Repayment Mechanism task in ACO-MS by uploading a brief written statement indicating that the ACO is not electing to decrease the amount of its repayment mechanism.

Corrected IRS 1099 Forms Issued

CMS identified an error in the initial Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 1099 Forms issued to ACOs that received Shared Savings Payments in CY 2021 for PY 2020. Corrected 1099s were sent to ACOs impacted by this issue on January 28, 2022.

Seeking ACO Speakers for an ACO Learning System Spring Webinar on Behavioral Health Strategies to Support Beneficiaries With Depression

CMS will host an ACO Learning System webinar this spring highlighting ACOs' strategies for identifying and supporting beneficiaries' behavioral health needs, particularly depression. Topics may include—but are not limited to—approaches to depression screening, managing depression as a chronic condition, and strategies for appropriate referrals. CMS also invites ACOs to share ideas or innovations related to increasing access to mental health services.

Does Your ACO Have a Behavioral Health Story to Share?

Please express interest in presenting by emailing VBCLearningSystem@mathematica-mpr.com with the subject line "Spring Behavioral Health Webinar" and a brief description of your ACO's behavioral health initiative and background by close of business on Friday, February 11th.

February CCLFs and Claims Run-Out Files

February Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files will be available to ACOs the week of February 14th for the PY 2022 assignable or prospectively assigned beneficiaries in the Data Hub tab in [ACO-MS](#).

CMS will also provide claims run-out CCLFs during the months of February, 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 2021 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, 2021.

The February 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 February 7 th	P.A****.ACO.MBIY22.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.Y22.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2022	Excluded Beneficiary MBI XREF File delivered in February 2022 (txt) Beneficiary Data Sharing Exclusion File delivered in February 2022 (xml)
PY 2022 CCLFs	Week of February 14 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCY22.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2022	CCLF delivered in February 2022 (zip)
PY 2021 Run-Out Exclusion and MBI XREF files	Week of February 21 st	P.A****.ACO.MBIR21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.R21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021	Run-Out Excluded Beneficiary MBI XREF File delivered in February 2022 (txt) Run-Out Beneficiary Data Sharing Exclusion File delivered in February 2022 (xml)
PY 2021 Run-Out CCLFs	Week of February 28 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCR21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021	Run-Out CCCLF delivered in February 2022 (zip)

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

CMS Web Interface: Open for 2021 Quality Reporting

As a reminder, the CMS Web Interface submission period opened on January 3, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) and closes on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. ET. If you are the ACO's Quality Payment Program (QPP) Security Official or QPP Staff User contact in [ACO-MS](#), you can sign in to the [QPP website](#) using your ACO-MS username and password to begin submitting data via the CMS Web Interface. During the submission period, you can take the following actions in the QPP website:

- Download your sample data.
- Upload your 2021 performance data.

Refer to the user access instructions, titled *Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs: Creating and Managing a HARP Account with a QPP Role in ACO-MS* (PDF), in the [QPP Access User Guide](#) (zip) for information on how to become an ACO's QPP Security Official or QPP Staff User contact in ACO-MS.

CMS will accept the data entered by the end of the submission period. **All data entered as of March 31, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. ET will be considered your final submission.**

The following resources are available on the [QPP Resource Library](#):

- [2021 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Web Interface Frequently Asked Questions](#) (PDF)
- [2021 CMS Web Interface User Guide](#) (PDF)
- [2021 CMS Web Interface User Demo Videos](#)
- [CMS Web Interface Data Dictionary 2021 Performance Year](#) (PDF)
- [2021 CMS Web Interface Excel Template with Sample Data](#)
- [2021 CMS Web Interface Excel Template](#)
- [2021 CMS Web Interface Quick Start Guide](#) (PDF)
- [Performance Year 2021 APM Performance Pathway: CMS Web Interface Measures Benchmarks for ACOs](#) (PDF)
- [2021 CMS Web Interface Measure Specifications and Supporting Documents](#) (zip)
- [CMS Web Interface Support Calls for ACOs, Groups, and Virtual Groups Reporting 2021 Quality Data & CMS Web Interface Transition Webinars](#) (PDF)

CMS Web Interface Data Submission Support Calls

CMS is hosting a series of CMS Web Interface Support Calls for groups, virtual groups, and ACOs that are reporting data for the quality performance category through the CMS Web Interface for the 2021 performance period. The support calls will highlight important information, provide updates on reporting quality data, and offer an opportunity for ACOs to engage in question-and-answer sessions with CMS subject matter experts. To attend the following support calls, you must register for each by clicking on the links below. These calls are held from **1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. ET** on the following dates:

CMS WEB INTERFACE DATA SUBMISSION SUPPORT CALLS		
February 23, 2022	March 9, 2022	March 23, 2022

Additional Assistance

The QPP Service Center is available to answer questions related to the CMS Web Interface throughout the submission period. CMS encourages your group, virtual group, or ACO to submit questions early and often during the submission period. Contact the QPP Service Center at QPP@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292 (Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET). Please consider calling during non-peak hours (before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. ET) to receive quicker assistance. Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a telecommunications relay service (TRS) Communications Assistant.

The QPP Service Center is projecting an increase in volume of calls and emails between January and March 2022 due to the opening of the 2021 Merit-based incentive Payment System (MIPS) data submission period, resulting in longer wait times.

To reduce wait times and ensure successful 2021 data submission, CMS recommends taking the following actions:

- **Use One Method to Report Issues:** Due to the increase in volume at the QPP Service Center and to minimize the backlog, CMS requests that you use only one method of reporting for the same issue (email or phone). Note: Cases are processed in the order in which they are received regardless of the manner in which the QPP Service Center was contacted. Please allow time for processing.
- **Submit Your Data Early:** It is encouraged that you submit your 2021 MIPS performance year data early during the submission period as this allows you plenty of time for any necessary QPP Service Center assistance.
- **Call the QPP Service Center at Off-Peak Hours:** CMS strongly recommends calling the QPP Service Center during off-peak hours (8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. ET or 2:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. ET).
- **Contact Your ACO Coordinator:** For ACOs, please reach out to your ACO Coordinator with your QPP Service Center ticket number to assist with resolving your inquiry.

Best Practices When Contacting the QPP Service Center

The QPP Service Center is available to answer your questions on topics including MIPS, reporting MIPS clinical quality measures (CQMs) and electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs), quality reporting through the CMS Web Interface, and Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) incentive payments. The following are a few things you can do to facilitate interactions with the QPP Service Center.

When calling the QPP Service Center at 1-866-288-8292 (TTY 1-877-715-6222):

- Provide your ACO Identification Number (ACO ID) to the QPP Service Center agent, even if this information is not requested.
- Have your ACO's taxpayer identification number (TIN) ready; it may be helpful depending on your question.
- Keep your QPP case number to share with your ACO Coordinator, if needed.
- Provide good contact information for you and a back-up contact, if needed. This will assist you if you open a case and will not be available for follow-up.

When emailing the QPP Service Center at QPP@cms.hhs.gov:

- Include your ACO ID in the subject line.
- Never include personally identifiable information (PII) or protected health information (PHI).
- Never include TINs.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMS Web Interface Data Submission Support Calls

- **Audience:** ACOs reporting quality data
- **Description:** CMS is hosting a series of CMS Web Interface Support Calls for groups, virtual groups, and ACOs that are reporting data for the quality performance category through the CMS Web Interface for the 2021 performance period. The support calls will highlight important information, provide updates on reporting quality data, and offer an opportunity for ACOs to engage in question-and-answer sessions with CMS subject matter experts.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022, 1:00 P.M.–2:30 P.M. ET

- [Register Here](#)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022, 1:00 P.M.–2:30 P.M. ET

- [Register Here](#)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022, 1:00 P.M.–2:30 P.M. ET

- [Register Here](#)

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

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