



ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

January 10, 2020 | ISSUE 1

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **2020 Public Reporting**
Deadline: Feb. 7

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **CMS Announces Jan. 1 Shared Savings Program ACOs**
- **ACO Coordinators, DUA Numbers for New ACOs Assigned**
- **New Telehealth Flexibilities Available**
- **SNF Affiliates Now Required to Include Demonstration Code 77**

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- **Building Predictive Models Using CCLF Files and Other Data Sources**
Jan. 14 | 2:30–4:00 p.m. ET
- **CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call**
Jan. 15 | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET

Not for Public Dissemination: The ACO Spotlight Newsletter is a weekly 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.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CMS Announces January 1, 2020 Shared Savings Program ACOs

CMS announced the Shared Savings Program ACOs for the performance year starting January 1, 2020. ACOs now serve over 11.2 million beneficiaries. CMS encourages ACOs to review the [Program Data](#) and [In The News](#) webpages for the most recent program data.

ACOs choosing to issue any type of public announcement regarding their participation in the program should ensure that all statements are complete, accurate, and not misleading. ACOs do not need to submit their public announcements to CMS for review.

Additionally, ACO data sets as of January 1, 2020, are available on Data.CMS.gov. These data sets can be found under the Special Programs/Initiatives – Medicare Shared Savings Program category and include Performance Year (PY) 2020 Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO:

- ACO Coverage Map
- List of Accountable Care Organizations, including certain identifying information
- List of ACO Participants
- List of Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Affiliates

Lastly, CMS updated the Shared Savings Program Fast Facts as of January 1, 2020. This file can be accessed via the [Program Data webpage](#) on the [Shared Savings Program website](#).

CMS ACO Coordinators and Data Use Agreement Numbers for New ACOs

CMS has assigned CMS coordinators to new ACOs with a January 1, 2020 start date. ACOs should expect to hear from their coordinators soon. You can find the name and email address of your CMS coordinator via the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#). Navigate to the My ACOs tab, select your ACO, click on the Agreement Details subtab, and locate your coordinator's name and email address in the Other Information section. Your CMS coordinator is your point of contact throughout your participation in the Shared Savings Program. CMS encourages you to contact your CMS coordinator and consider scheduling regular calls in the event that you have program-related questions or concerns.

CMS will also provide ACOs their Data Use Agreement (DUA) number by the end of January via ACO-MS. Once your DUA number is available, CMS will notify you via the *ACO Spotlight Newsletter*. Please hold any DUA changes until your DUA number appears in the Other Information section on the Agreement Details subtab in ACO-MS.

New Telehealth Flexibilities Available Beginning January 1, 2020

With the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, new flexibilities were granted for physicians and practitioners in certain ACOs in the delivery of services through telehealth, for dates of service on or after January 1, 2020.

Physicians and practitioners in ACOs that are in a two-sided risk track and that chose prospective assignment may bill for certain services without the geographic limitations that usually apply to fee-for-service telehealth coverage. Also, for the first time, the home of the beneficiary may qualify as an originating site.

The [Shared Savings Program Telehealth Fact Sheet](#) details the expanded benefit, including coverage and billing information. Locate the Telehealth Fact Sheet on the [For Providers webpage](#) of the Shared Savings Program website.

Reminder: SNF Affiliates Now Required to Include Demonstration Code 77 on SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver Claims

Effective as of January 1, 2020, SNF affiliates of ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program must include demonstration code 77 in the treatment authorization field on claims for admissions on or after January 1, 2020.

ACOs in two-sided models approved to use a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver should continue to work with their SNF affiliates to make sure they are in compliance with this new billing requirement.

For additional information on this requirement, refer to the [Medicare Learning Network \(MLN\) article](#) titled “Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Affiliate's Requirements to Include Demonstration Code 77 on SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver Claims.”

Reminder: The 2020 Public Reporting Deadline is February 7, 2020

All ACOs should update their public reporting webpage with PY 2020 information by Friday, February 7, 2020. As a reminder, starting in PY 2020, CMS will no longer issue public reporting templates **pre-populated** for ACOs. Instead, CMS made a sample *Public Reporting Template* available to ACOs on the [SSP ACO Portal](#) in the Resources section. The sample template follows the same layout as the pre-populated template CMS provided in the past. ACOs must use this standardized format laid out in the template. This resource includes instructions on how to populate the template using data from [ACO-MS](#) and data ACOs have on hand.

ACOs that received a pre-populated *Public Reporting Template* on December 2, 2019, after the release of *PY 2018 Financial and Quality Performance Results* may also need to update their template with PY 2020 information. ACOs that started prior to 2020 and do not have any updates to the template as issued on December 2, 2019, do not need to make any changes to its public reporting webpages.

Please reference 42 CFR § 425.308 for additional details on public reporting requirements. Additionally, ACOs should update their public reporting webpage during the performance year when changes occur using the provided sample template. Please make corresponding updates in ACO-MS; ACO-MS is CMS' source for data that is made publicly available.

2020 Medicare Shared Savings Program Interaction Guide

CMS updated its [Medicare Shared Savings Program and Quality Payment Program Interactions Guide](#) for PY 2020. It can also be found in the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) Resource Library](#).

The Medicare Shared Saving Program Interaction Guide provides Merit-based Incentive Payment Systems (MIPS) Alternate Payment Model (APM) participation options and outlines some details on APM status.

Review the 2020 Medicare Shared Savings Program Interaction Guide to learn more about APM Scoring Standard and Eligibility for the following categories: Quality, Improvement Activities (IA), Promoting Interoperability (PI), Cost, Low Volume Threshold (LVT), and Eligibility for MIPS APM Scoring Standard.

Learn More

For more information on APMs and lists of current APM participants, visit the [QPP APM webpages](#). Contact the QPP at QPP@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292 (TTY: 1-877-715-6222). To receive assistance more quickly, consider calling during non-peak hours—before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

QPP Participation Status Tool Now Includes Third Snapshot of 2019 Qualifying APM Participant and MIPS APMs Data

CMS updated its [QPP Participation Status Lookup Tool](#) based on the third snapshot of data from APM entities. The third snapshot includes data from Medicare Part B claims with **dates of service between January 1, 2019, and August 31, 2019**. The tool includes 2019 Qualifying APM Participant (QP) and MIPS APM participation status.

To learn more about how CMS determines QP and APM participation status for each snapshot, please view the 2019 QP Methodology Fact Sheet found in the [2019 QP Methodology Resources](#) (zip).

To view your QP or APM participation status at the individual level, visit the QPP Participation Status Lookup Tool and enter your 10-digit National Provider Identifier (NPI). Click on “Check All Years.” Scroll down to see the display of your participation status in the center of the page.

To check your 2019 eligibility at the APM entity level:

- Log in to the CMS [QPP website](#). Learn how by downloading the [QPP Access User Guide](#) (zip).
- Browse to the Taxpayer Identification Number(s) affiliated with your entity.
- Access the details screen to view the eligibility status of every clinician based on their NPI.

For more information on APMs and lists of current APM participants, visit the [QPP APM webpages](#). Contact the QPP at QPP@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292 (TTY: 1-877-715-6222). To receive assistance more quickly, consider calling during non-peak hours—before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. ET.

Reminder: ACO Spotlight Newsletter Moving to Biweekly Schedule

Beginning this week, the *ACO Spotlight Newsletter* will be published once every other week rather than once per week. The next issue of the *ACO Spotlight Newsletter* will be distributed the week of January 20, 2020.

RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

2020 Shared Savings Program Report Schedule

The *2020 Shared Savings Program Report Schedule* was recently posted to the [SSP ACO Portal](#) and is available under the Resources section in the Category column labeled “Program Reports.” This report schedule provides information for January 2020 participating ACOs. The report schedule dates are subject to change.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shared Savings Program ACO Data Affinity Group Webinar: Building Predictive Models Using CCLF Files and Other Data Sources

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020, 2:30 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#): 1-857-232-0156; Access Code: 271840
- **Audience:** All ACOs
- **Description:** Join the next Learning System for ACOs data affinity group to learn about building predictive models using Claim and Claim Line Feeds (CCLF) files and other data. A speaker from the Learning System for ACOs will discuss considerations for planning predictive models including types of available data and then review an example of how to build a model. The event will include ACO representatives who will share how they apply predictive analytics to support strategic initiatives. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions to presenters during the event.

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020, 1:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs and group reporters
- **Description:** CMS is hosting a series of support calls for ACOs and groups that are reporting data for the Quality Performance Category through the CMS Web Interface for PY 2019. The support calls will highlight important information and updates on reporting quality data and provide ACOs and groups with an opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions with CMS subject matter experts. For more information on the CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Calls, view the [CMS Web Interface Support Calls for ACOs and Groups Reporting Quality Data to CMS flyer](#). Topics for this call will include:
 - Pre-10 Reporting
 - Assignment & Sampling FAQs
 - Frequently Asked Measure Questions

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020, 1:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs and group reporters
- **Description:** CMS is hosting a series of support calls for ACOs and groups that are reporting data for the Quality Performance Category through the CMS Web Interface for PY 2019. The support calls will highlight important information and updates on reporting quality data and provide ACOs and groups with an opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions with CMS subject matter experts. For more information on the CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Calls, view the [CMS Web Interface Support Calls for ACOs and Groups Reporting Quality Data to CMS flyer](#). Topics for this call will include:
 - Assignment & Sampling FAQs
 - Frequently Asked Measure Questions covering the following measures:
 - PREV-6
 - PREV-10
 - PREV-13

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020, 1:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs and group reporters
- **Description:** CMS is hosting a series of support calls for ACOs and groups that are reporting data for the Quality Performance Category through the CMS Web Interface for PY 2019. The support calls will highlight important information and updates on reporting quality data and provide ACOs and groups with an opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions with CMS subject matter experts. For more information on the CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Calls, view the [CMS Web Interface Support Calls for ACOs and Groups Reporting Quality Data to CMS flyer](#). Topics for this call will include:
 - Assignment & Sampling FAQs
 - Frequently Asked Measure Questions covering the following measures:
 - CARE-2
 - MH-1
 - PREV-5
 - PREV-6
 - PREV-12

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020, 1:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs and group reporters
- **Description:** CMS is hosting a series of support calls for ACOs and groups that are reporting data for the Quality Performance Category through the CMS Web Interface for PY 2019. The support calls will highlight important information and updates on reporting quality data and provide ACOs and groups with an opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions with CMS subject matter experts. For more information on the CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Calls, view the [CMS Web Interface Support Calls for ACOs and Groups Reporting Quality Data to CMS flyer](#). Topics for this call will include:
 - Assignment & Sampling FAQs
 - Frequently Asked Measure Questions covering the following measures:
 - HTN-2
 - MH-1
 - PREV-12

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

To help ACOs navigate questions regarding the Shared Savings Program.

Medicare Shared Savings Program

SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov

- Include your ACO ID (Axxxx) in the Subject line or text of the email
- Program operations and policy inquiries
- Technical inquiries related to MFT, CCLFs, the SSP ACO Portal, and ACO-MS
- Assistance with user access to CMS systems
- Password resets for your EIDM User ID
- 1-888-734-6433 (select Option 1) or 1-888-734-6563

Quality Payment Program Service Center

QPP@cms.hhs.gov

- 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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