



ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

January 23, 2020 | ISSUE 2

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Public Reporting Deadline:**
February 14, 2020
- **CMS Web Interface Quality Reporting Deadline:** March 31, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. ET

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **New and Enhanced ACO-MS Functionality**
- **DUA Numbers Assigned in ACO-MS for New ACOs**
- **January CCLFs**
- **Governing Body Checkup**

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- **CMS Web Interface Support Calls**
January 29th | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET
February 12th | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET
- **CCLF Overview for 2020 Starters**
February 12th | 2:00–4:00 p.m. ET

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

New and Enhanced ACO-MS Functionality

ACO-MS Knowledge Library Available on Friday, January 24th

Several aspects of the [SSP ACO Portal](#) will transition to a new Knowledge Library in the [ACO Management System](#) (ACO-MS). This new ACO-MS functionality allows ACOs to access program-specific information, such as the *ACO Spotlight Newsletter*, program operational schedules, program resources, and webinar details. The Knowledge Library in ACO-MS also has advanced search functionality, the ability to save favorites, trending topics, and the ability to share documents with others. Please log into ACO-MS and navigate to the Knowledge Library via the Knowledge Library tab on the left side menu to explore this brand-new feature.

Beginning February 2nd, the SSP ACO Portal will no longer display any announcements, events, or resources. Please note that reports, including standard reports, data files, and enhanced reports, will remain available via the SSP ACO Portal and your Managed File Transfer (MFT) mailbox and have not been transferred to ACO-MS during this release.

For questions about ACO-MS or if you require technical assistance, email SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov or call 1-888-734-6433 (Option 1) or (TTY: 1-888-734-6563).

Marketing Module Enhancements in ACO-MS: Now Available

CMS released the following two ACO Marketing enhancements in ACO-MS:

- Increased file upload size (50 MB)
- Beneficiary Notice templates

ACOs now have the ability to upload larger documents in ACO-MS. The new size allotment will accommodate ACO marketing submissions and allow for larger files that were not previously compatible. Additionally, the Beneficiary Notice templates are now available in ACO-MS for ACOs to populate and are still available on the SSP ACO Portal.

As a reminder, ACOs must submit all marketing materials and activities to CMS for review according to [§ 425.310](#) through ACO-MS. ACOs are responsible for ensuring that all material meets the Shared Savings Program marketing requirements and is consistent with all other relevant Shared Savings Program requirements.

DUA Numbers Assigned in ACO-MS for New ACOs Starting January 1, 2020

The Data Use Agreement (DUA) governs the release of, or access to, specified data files containing protected health information and individual identifiers. CMS updated [ACO-MS](#) with the DUA number for new ACOs with a January 1, 2020 start date. You can find your ACO's DUA number in ACO-MS by navigating to the My ACOs tab, selecting your ACO, and clicking on the Agreement Details subtab. The DUA number is listed in the Other Information section in the bottom right of the screen. ACOs need the DUA number to submit a DUA Addendum.

2020 Public Reporting Deadline Extended to February 14, 2020

ACOs have a one-week extension to complete updates to their public reporting webpage for Performance Year (PY) 2020. CMS asks that ACOs update their public reporting website by **Friday, February 14, 2020**.

As a reminder, starting in PY 2020, CMS will no longer issue pre-populated public reporting templates for ACOs. Instead, CMS made a sample *Public Reporting Template* available to ACOs on the [SSP ACO Portal](#). This resource includes instructions on how to populate the template using data from [ACO-MS](#) and data ACOs have on hand. To access the document in the SSP ACO Portal, please search for "Public Reporting" under the Resources section of the SSP ACO Portal to locate the "PY 2020 Public Reporting Template and Instructions" document. To access the sample *Public Reporting Template* in the ACO-MS Knowledge Library, click the Program Resources category and search in the Filter by Title field for "*Public Reporting Template*."

Please reference [42 CFR § 425.308](#) for additional details on public reporting requirements.

CMS Web Interface: Now Open for Submission

The submission period for PY 2019 CMS Web Interface quality reporting opened on Thursday, January 2, 2020, and will close on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The submission period allows you to download your ACO's Beneficiary Samples and upload your ACO's CMS Web Interface data.

All Shared Savings Program ACOs must completely and accurately report all CMS Web Interface quality measures in order to be eligible to share in savings, avoid owing the maximum amount of losses if applicable, and avoid compliance actions. For the performance year beginning January 1, 2019, or the performance year beginning July 1, 2019, the ACO-reported CMS Web Interface data is used to calculate the quality performance category for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)-eligible clinicians in an ACO participating in Track 1, or Levels A through D of the BASIC track's glide path. ACO-reported CMS Web Interface data is also used for eligible clinicians participating in any ACO that is in an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (Advanced APM) track but do not meet requirements for becoming Qualifying APM Participants (QPs). Shared Savings Program Tracks 2 or 3, the Medicare ACO Track 1+ Model (Track 1+ Model), Level E of the BASIC track, and the ENHANCED track are considered Advanced APMs.

Please sign in to the [Quality Payment Program](#) (QPP) website with your Health Care Quality Information System (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) User ID and password to begin the submission process. You must have an appropriate user role associated with your organization. Instructions for creating a HARP account and requesting a role are available in the [QPP Access User Guide](#).

CMS will automatically accept the data that is entered by the end of the submission period. All data entered as of Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. EDT will be considered your final submission.

CMS Web Interface Support Calls

Register for the upcoming [CMS Web Interface Support Calls](#), which are held every Wednesday through March 25, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)/EDT. The support calls will highlight important information and updates on reporting quality data, and provide ACOs and groups with an opportunity to engage in Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions with CMS subject matter experts.

January CCLFs

January Claim and Claim Line Feeds (CCLFs) are available to ACOs as of January 17, 2020, and January 24, 2020. These files will be available in the ACO's MFT mailbox for 100 days after the delivery date. ACOs continuing with their choice of assignment will receive one or two sets of CCLFs in January based on their assignment methodology selection in 2020.

ACO Classification	CCLFs Naming Convention and Delivery	
	January 17 th	January 24 th
New ACOs	P.A****.ACO.ZCY20.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	N/A
ACOs transitioning to a different assignment methodology in 2020	P.A****.ACO.ZCY20.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	P.A****.ACO.ZCY19.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst
ACOs continuing with Retrospective assignment/Track 1 and Track 2 ACOs	N/A	P.A****.ACO.ZCY19.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst
ACOs continuing with Prospective assignment/Track 1+ Model	P.A****.ACO.ZCY20.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	P.A****.ACO.ZCY19.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst

Exclusion files for the two sets of CCLFs were available to the ACOs on January 11, 2020. The exclusion files include the performance year in the file names to help identify the set of CCLFs to which the exclusions are applicable.

Beginning in January 2020, all generated CCLFs will be packaged and zipped in a single zip file instead of individual zip files each month.

ACOs should refer to the *CCLF Information Packet (IP), Version 28 (V28)* and *ACO and ACO Operational System (ACO-OS) Data Exchange User Guide, V9* for additional information on the January CCLFs, file layouts and the exclusion files. For technical assistance, please contact the ACO Information Center at SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov or 1-888-734-6433 (Option 1).

Is Your ACO Governing Body Due for a Checkup?

ACOs must maintain an identifiable governing body in accordance with [42 CFR § 425.106](#). CMS conducts reviews of ACOs' governing bodies periodically to ensure compliance with the shared governance requirements. If your ACO is submitting an application for a January 1, 2021 agreement period start date, CMS will review your governing body as a part of your application.

To assist ACOs with achieving compliance with shared governance requirements, below are some tips for maintaining governing bodies:

- Review your ACO's governing bodies regularly to ensure that the governing body is compliant with Shared Savings Program regulations, especially if you add or remove ACO participants each year.
- Be sure that your ACO lists all current governing body members, their membership type, the voting power of the member and any ACO participant representatives, and the ACO participant's legal business name (LBN) as it appears on its public reporting webpage that it is required to maintain, per [42 CFR § 425.308](#).
- Make sure that at least 75 percent of the voting power for all voting members is held by ACO participants from the ACO Participant List for the current performance year. CMS does not require an ACO's governing body to include a representative from each ACO participant listed on its ACO Participant List for the current performance year.
- The ACO must include a Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiary on its governing body. If an ACO chooses to include a Medicare FFS beneficiary on the governing body without voting power, the ACO must provide CMS with an explanation of how the ACO plans to achieve meaningful representation for Medicare beneficiaries.

Failure to meet the shared governance requirements (42 CFR § 425.106) may result in compliance actions.

Reminder: Beneficiary Claims Data API's Beta Partner Pilot Program Expanding

The Beneficiary Claims Data Application Programming Interface (API) (BCDA) will enable ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program to retrieve Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D claims data for their assigned or assignable beneficiaries. BCDA sends data acquired through the Beneficiary Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Data (BFD) Server, which is structured using the FHIR standard, making it more available, discoverable, and understandable. The data delivered to you via BCDA is similar to the CCLFs; however, this data is now available weekly through BCDA and will be delivered in a new format (FHIR). BCDA is expanding the Beta Partner Pilot Program to additional Shared Savings Program ACOs that are interested in retrieving their claims data through the API. If you are interested in utilizing the API, please join the [BCDA Google Group](#) and try out the [BCDA Sandbox environment](#) to learn about BCDA functionality. Once you review these BCDA resources, if you think you may be a good fit to join the expanded BCDA Pilot Program, please use the contact information in the BCDA user guide to request to be added to the Beta Partner roster.

RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

PY 2020 Claims-based Measure Information Forms: Now Available

The PY 2020 Measure Information Forms (MIFs) for the claims-based measures in the Shared Savings Program measure set are now available on the [Program Guidance and Specifications webpage](#):

- ACO-08: Risk-Standardized All Condition Readmission
- ACO-38: Risk-Standardized Acute Admission Rates for Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions
- ACO-43: Prevention Quality Indicator (PQI) Ambulatory Sensitive Condition Acute Composite

CMS Web Interface Resources: Now Available

CMS would like to announce the availability of resources on the [QPP Resource Library](#) and the [QPP Webinar Library](#):

- [2019 CMS Web Interface User Demo Videos](#) (Created: December 19, 2019)
- 2019 CMS Web Interface User Kick Off Call (Recorded: December 11, 2019)
 - [Recording](#)
 - [Slides \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Transcript \(PDF\)](#)

For assistance or questions regarding the CMS Web Interface, please contact the QPP at QPP@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292 (TTY: 1-877-715-6222). Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a telecommunications relay service (TRS) communications assistant.

SSP ACO Portal Enhanced Report: Refreshed Data for ASR Reports Reflecting Preliminary Prospective / Prospective PY 2020 Data

ACOs now have access to their PY 2020 Preliminary Prospective/Prospective Assignment Summary data within the Enhanced Reports section of the [SSP ACO Portal](#). This release adds the Preliminary Prospective Assignment Summary data for PY 2020 for ACOs under preliminary prospective assignment with retrospective reconciliation and PY 2020 Prospective Assignment Summary data for ACOs under prospective assignment to the *Assignment Summary Report* (ASR) Enhanced Reports section in the SSP ACO Portal.

The *Assignment Summary Report, Trends for Tables 2-4 and 2-5* report provides tables that summarize the demographic and eligibility characteristics of your ACO's assigned beneficiaries and provides counts and percentages of beneficiaries by classification for a selected reporting period (Table 2-4). It also provides the county distribution of the ACO's beneficiary population (Table 2-5). You can compare data directly from several reporting periods in the same table.

Learning System: Case Study on Atlantic's Patient Navigator Program Released

This case study describes how Atlantic Dialysis Management Services (Atlantic) developed and operates a patient navigator program to provide nonclinical support for patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Through this program, Atlantic aims to strengthen patient adherence to dialysis treatment, enhance the patient's care experience, and reduce costs associated with preventable care. Navigators support patients to address the psychosocial challenges associated with dialysis care, assist with care coordination, and refer patients to relevant community resources. Atlantic's experience can help inform other organizations that are interested in launching a navigator program for patients with ESRD.

Many thanks to Atlantic for sharing the details of their patient navigator program in this Learning System ACO (LSACO) case study. The case study will be available on the [ACO-MS](#) Knowledge Library.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 (SMEs). 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 SMEs. 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

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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 SMEs. 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:
 - Q&A Opportunity
 - Frequently Asked Measure Questions covering the following measures:
 - CARE-2
 - HTN-2
 - PREV-7
 - PREV-12

CCLF User Group Webinar: CCLF Overview for 2020 Starters

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020, 2:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#): 1-857-232-0156; Access Code: 271840
- **Audience:** All ACOs
- **Description:** CMS will provide detailed information on the data contained in CCLFs and the relationship between the data fields. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from SMEs. This presentation is for ACOs with 2020 start dates, but all other ACOs are welcome to attend.

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 (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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