



ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

March 4, 2020 | ISSUE 5

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **CMS Web Interface Closes Quality Reporting: March 31st, 8:00 p.m. ET**

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **SNF Claims With a 3-Day Qualifying Hospital Stay Returned to Provider in Error**
- **Hypertension Control Champions Challenge Open**

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- **CMS Web Interface Support Calls**
March 11th | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET
March 18th | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET
March 25th | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CMS Web Interface to Close on Tuesday, March 31, 2020

The submission period for the CMS Web Interface aligns with all other submission types for Performance Year (PY) 2019, and will close on **March 31, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). No late submissions will be accepted.** CMS encourages your ACO to submit data on behalf of its participants, in advance of the submission period deadline. This will allow your ACO sufficient time to receive assistance if needed and complete the reporting requirements.

Resources to assist you with CMS Web Interface reporting are available in the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) Resource Library](#). The QPP Resource Library includes:

- [2019 CMS Web Interface Fact Sheet](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface Measure Specifications and Supporting Documents](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface Sampling Methodology](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface & CAHPS® for MIPS Survey Assignment Methodology](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface Excel Template](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface Excel Template with Sample Data](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface Data Dictionary](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface User Guide](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface FAQs](#)
- [2019 CMS Web Interface User Demo Videos \(Playlist\)](#)

ACOs must completely and accurately report all quality measures to be eligible to share in savings if earned and to avoid paying the maximum amount of shared losses, if applicable.

Please contact the QPP Service Center at qpp@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292 if you need support with the CMS Web Interface.

For ACOs Approved to Use the SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver: SNF Claims With a 3-Day Qualifying Hospital Stay Returned to Provider in Error

It has come to CMS' attention that Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) claims for beneficiaries eligible for the SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver with a 3-day qualifying hospital stay are being Returned to Provider (RTP) with the reason code 32490—requiring the demonstration code 77 to be reported in the treatment authorization field in order to bypass the 3-day qualifying hospital stay.

If an ACO has been approved for the SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver, and one of their SNF affiliates submits a claim for an assigned/assignable beneficiary, the system is automatically applying the rules of the system change request discussed in [Medicare Learning Network \(MLN\) Matters Number MM11290](#) and looking for the demonstration code, regardless of whether the beneficiary had a qualifying 3-day hospital stay. Therefore, when the SNF does not use demonstration code 77, the claims are RTP in error.

This error was an unintentional result of implementing the system change request. CMS will be issuing a technical direction letter to the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to temporarily correct this issue, until the shared system can be updated. The SNFs can expect their claims that have an admission date after January 1, 2020, and an Occurrence Span code 70 equaling three days or greater, to be temporarily suspended by the MACs. At least once a week, the MACs will process the affected claims. The SNFs do not need to resubmit any claims that have been incorrectly RTP with the reason code 32490. CMS anticipates the affected SNF claims will begin to process by mid-March. CMS does not expect SNF payments to be late due to this issue.

Million Hearts® Hypertension Control Champions Challenge is Open

CDC launched the Million Hearts® Hypertension Control Champions Challenge on February 21st. This annual program recognizes health care professionals, practices, and health systems that are achieving ≥ 80 percent blood pressure control. Currently, there are 118 Champions from 36 states and DC (2012–2019), many of which have come from ACOs. Million Hearts® welcomes applicants from all states but would like to recognize Champions from the states that are currently without Champions including AL, AK, AR, AZ, DE, ID, IN, ME, MS, NC, NE, NV, SD, and VT. The deadline to apply is April 6, 2020, 11:59 p.m. EDT. Apply at the [Million Hearts webpage](#).

RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

SSP ACO Portal Enhanced Report: Refreshed Drill Down Data for PY 2019 Q4 Expenditure Utilization Now Available

ACOs now have access to an additional period of expenditure utilization (EXPU) drill down data. The release on March 2nd added drill down data associated with the Q4 EXPU report for PY 2019 and PY 2019-A. This data can be accessed through the Enhanced Reports section of the [SSP ACO Portal](#), through the *Expenditure Utilization Report, Trends, Graphs, and Drill Down for Table 1* enhanced report. This report allows drill down to beneficiary level person years, total expenditures, and health service utilization aggregate measures included on the EXPU report. Please note, the CMS New Medicare Card Transition Period ended in December 2019. Only the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) is now accepted on Medicare claims, and the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) value will no longer be displayed. The HICN will be blank in drill down data generated effective January 1, 2020, onwards.

ACOs that participated in both the 6-month performance year from January 1, 2019, to June 30, 2019, and the 6-month performance year from July 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, will notice two new entries in the report prompts for this refresh. In reports, CMS refers to the July–December 2019 performance year as “2019-A” to distinguish this performance year from the January–June and January–December performance years, which are both referred to as “2019” in reports. The prompts will list the 2019 performance year data as “2019,” while for the 2019-A performance year data the prompt will list it as “2019A,” with no dash.

Compliance Plan Tip Sheet

The [Shared Savings Program Compliance Plan tip sheet](#) for ACOs is available on the [Program Guidance and Specifications webpage](#) of the Shared Savings Program website.

The *Shared Savings Program Compliance Plan tip sheet* is intended to serve as a quick resource to help ACOs develop compliant and robust compliance plans. The tip sheet is based on best practices and includes items for ACOs to consider as they build and update their compliance plans.

If you have any questions, email SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov. Additional information that could be helpful when developing your compliance plan is available on the [Compliance Guidance webpage](#) of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) website.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 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](#).
 - The topics for this call will include frequently asked questions on MH-1 and PREV-13, and a Q&A opportunity.

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 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](#).

CMS Web Interface Weekly Support Call

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 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](#).

Registration Open for Spring 2020 IPLCs

All Shared Savings Program ACOs in each CMS region are invited to attend regional in-person learning collaborative (IPLC) meetings held in the spring and fall. You can use the links below to register for the upcoming IPLC meeting in your region.

Who should attend?

IPLCs will include presentations and discussion on how to improve quality and lower costs. Attendees will discuss specific improvement strategies, such as setting aims, using data to inform improvement, and engaging stakeholders. ACO staff who work on quality and performance improvement initiatives may be most interested in attending.

Interested in presenting?

ACOs interested in presenting formally at the IPLC meeting are encouraged to express interest using [this link](#). If your proposal is selected, a member of CMS' Learning System team will contact you to discuss a potential presentation.

Note: CMS asks that ACOs located in Region V choose either the meeting in Detroit or the meeting in Chicago. Please do not register for both Region V events.

CMS Region	Date	City	Location	Registration
Region I: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT	May 28 th	Boston	Institute for Healthcare Improvement	Register here by May 14 th
Region II: NJ, NY, PR, VI	April 30 th	New York City	Jacob K. Javits Federal Building	Register here by April 16 th
Region III: DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	June 18 th	Baltimore	CMS Central Office	Register here by June 4 th
Region IV: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	June 4 th	Atlanta	Sam Nunn Federal Building	Register here by May 21 st
Region V(A): IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	June 25 th	Chicago	Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building	Register here by June 11 th
Region V(B): IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	May 7 th	Detroit	University of Michigan Detroit Center	Register here by April 23 rd
Region VI: AR, LA, OK, NM, TX	April 24 th	Dallas	The Meadows Conference Center	Register here by April 10 th
Regions VII & VIII: CO, IA, KS, MO, MT, NE, ND, SD, UT, WY	June 11 th	Kansas City	Richard Bolling Federal Building	Register here by May 28 th
Regions IX & X: AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA	May 14 th	San Francisco	San Francisco Federal Building	Register here by April 30 th

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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