

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **NOIA Submission Period: June 7, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET**

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Establishing a Repayment Mechanism Webcast**
May 27th | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register here](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [Application Toolkit Now Available; NOIA Period Opens June 1st](#)
- [PY 2021 Quarter 1 Report Package: Available May 20th](#)
- [May CCLF Files](#)
- [Updated eCQM Specifications and eCQM Materials for 2022 Reporting: Now Available](#)
- [Webinar Slides and Recordings](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

Application Toolkit Now Available; NOIA Period Opens June 1st

CMS has released updated information for the January 1, 2022 application cycle. The sample applications are available on the [Application Types & Timeline webpage](#). Additional updates to the Application Toolkit are available on the [Application Toolkit webpage](#).

Beginning June 1, 2021, CMS will accept Notices of Intent to Apply (NOIAs) via the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#). You must submit a NOIA to be eligible to apply for, renew, or early renew your participation in the Shared Savings Program for a January 1, 2022 start date. **NOIA submissions are due no later than June 7, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time (ET).** For more information, review the *How to Submit a NOIA in ACO-MS* tip sheet on the Application Types & Timeline webpage. After you submit a NOIA, submit your application between June 8th and June 28th. The application window closes on June 28th at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET. **Please note dates are subject to change.**

PY 2021 Quarter 1 Report Package: Available May 20th

On May 20, 2021, CMS is releasing the Performance Year (PY) 2021 Quarter 1 (Q1) report package to ACOs via the Data Hub tab in the [ACO-MS](#). The report packages will be sent as a zip file and include 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 File (NCBP)
- 2020 Q4 Claims-Based Quality Measures Report (QQR)

ACOs may find their Q1 report package under PY 2021 in the Data Hub tab in ACO-MS with the file name "P.Axxxx.ACO.QEXPU.D219999.T0100000." Please note that "D219999" indicates that the reports are applicable for PY 2021, and "T0100000" indicates that the reports are applicable to Q1.

Resources

For additional information about the Q1 report package, reference the Q1 cover notice and the most recently available report user guides: *Assignment List Report User's Guide*, *Assignment Summary Report User's Guide*, and *Annual and Quarterly Aggregate Expenditure/Utilization and Beneficiary Expenditure/Utilization Report User's Guide*. The user's guides provide detailed information about the data elements included in the referenced program reports. These guides

can be found in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS by searching “Report User’s Guides.”

May CCLF Files

May Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files for the PY 2021 assignable or prospectively assigned beneficiaries were made available to ACOs on May 17th in the Data Hub tab in [ACO-MS](#).

The May delivery timeline for the CCLF, Exclusion, and Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Cross-reference (XREF) files are as follows:

FILE	DELIVERY	FILE NAMING CONVENTION	DATA HUB PY	USER FRIENDLY FILE NAMING CONVENTION
PY 21 Beneficiary Exclusion and MBI XREF files	05/12	P.A****.ACO.MBIY21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.Y21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021	Excluded Beneficiary MBI XREF File delivered in May 2021 (txt) Beneficiary Data Sharing Exclusion File delivered in May 2021 (xml)
PY 21 CCLFs	05/17	P.A****.ACO.ZCY21.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2021	CCLF delivered in May 2021 (zip)

ACOs should refer to the *CCLF Information Packet (IP)*, Version 31 (V31), 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 under 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).

Updated eCQM Specifications and eCQM Materials for 2022 Reporting: Now Available

CMS has posted the electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) specifications for the 2022 performance period for eligible professionals and eligible clinicians. CMS updates the specifications annually to align with current clinical guidelines and code systems so they remain relevant and actionable within the clinical care setting. These updated eCQMs are to be used to electronically report 2022 clinical quality measure data for the Quality Payment Program (QPP): The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs).

Where to Find the Updated eCQM Specifications and Materials

The updated eCQM specifications are available on the [Eligible Professional/Eligible Clinician eCQMs webpage](#) by selecting the 2022 performance period in the drop-down menu on the [Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement \(eCQI\) Resource Center](#). Other eCQM resources—including the *Guide for Reading eCQMs, V7*; *eCQM Logic and Implementation Guidance, V5*; tables of eCQMs; and technical release notes—are also available at the same location. CMS updated the *Guide to Reading eCQMs, V7*; *eCQM Logic, and Implementation Guidance, V5*, based on end-user feedback and continues to update these guides to assist stakeholders in understanding and implementing eCQMs.

Where to Find the 2022 eCQM Value Sets, Direct Reference Codes, and Terminology

The 2022 reporting/performance period eCQM value sets are available through the National Library of Medicine’s [Value Set Authority Center \(VSAC\)](#). The value sets are available as a complete set, as well as value sets per eCQM. The direct reference codes specified within the eCQM Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) files are also available in a separate file for download on the [VSAC Downloadable Resources webpage](#).

Eligible Professional/Eligible Clinician Telehealth Guidance

CMS has posted guidance on the allowance of telehealth encounters for the eligible professional and eligible clinician eCQMs used in CMS quality reporting programs for the 2022 performance periods. The guidance provided applies to eCQMs used in QPP: MIPS and Advanced APMs.

Where to Find the Guidance on Allowance of Telehealth Encounters

The guidance is available on the eCQI Resource Center by selecting the 2022 performance period in the [Telehealth Guidance for Electronic Clinical Quality Measures \(eCQMs\) for Eligible Professional/Eligible Clinician 2022 Quality Reporting](#) and [Additional Information Regarding Electronic Clinical Quality Measures \(eCQMs\) for CMS Quality Reporting Programs for Eligible Professionals and Eligible Clinicians](#) documents.

For More Information

To find out more about eCQMs, visit the eCQI Resource Center. The eCQM Data Element Repository on the [Measure Collaboration \(MC\) Workspace webpage](#) is a searchable module that provides all the data elements associated with eCQMs in CMS quality reporting programs, as well as the definitions for each data element. This information is intended to improve clarity for those implementing eCQMs.

For Questions Regarding eCQMs

To report questions or comments on the eCQM specifications, visit the [eCQM Issue Tracker](#). Note that an Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Project Tracking System (Jira) account is required to ask a question or comment.

Webinar Slides and Recordings

Links to the presentation slides, audio recording, and transcript for the following presentation are available in the Webinars section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#):

- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) Presentation to Shared Savings Program (SSP) Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) on 2015 Edition of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT)

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Medicare Shared Savings Program: Establishing a Repayment Mechanism Webcast

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021, 1:00 P.M.—2:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** Shared Savings Program ACOs
- **Description:** During this Medicare Learning Network (MLN) webcast, participants will learn how to establish a repayment mechanism to participate in the Shared Savings Program for PY 2022. An ACO entering into Levels C, D, or E of the BASIC track or the ENHANCED track (two-sided risk models) must demonstrate the adequacy of its repayment mechanism prior to the start of its agreement period.

Register for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaboratives Series

Registration is open for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) series for ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program. The Learning System will host virtual, cross-regional meetings to convene ACOs across the country to exchange ideas and collaborate on improvement strategies, such as setting aims, using data to inform improvement, and engaging stakeholders. Event participants will explore these concepts through facilitated discussion and ACO presentations on topics, such as data integration, care coordination, beneficiary and provider engagement, and social determinants of health.

Who should attend?

Attendance is limited to ensure all interested ACOs have the opportunity to meaningfully connect with their peers through interactive breakout sessions. CMS invites ACOs to register for the meeting that best aligns with your team's schedule, and requests you limit your enrollment to three participants per ACO. ACOs should prioritize staff who work on quality and performance improvement initiatives. A waitlist will become available once the event reaches its registration limit.

Please RSVP using the links below. Agendas for the VLCs can be found in the Webinar section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#).

DATE	TIME	REGISTRATION
May 20 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Registration Closed
June 3 rd	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by May 27 th
June 10 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by June 3 rd
June 24 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by June 17 th

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

To help ACOs navigate questions regarding the Shared Savings Program.

ACO Information Center

Click the [ACO-MS](#) Helpdesk Icon (located within the ACO-MS banner)

- 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

- 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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