

AT A GLANCE

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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)**

May 6th | 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. ET | [Join here](#)

- **Transforming Care for Patients with Complex Clinical Needs—Care Plans and Care Coordination Tools**

May 6th | 2:30–3:30 p.m. ET | [Register here](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [Application and Change Request Cycle Documents Now Available; NOIA Opens June 1st](#)
- [FY 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System and Long Term Care Hospital Rates Proposed Rule Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Now Available for Comment](#)
- [Notice of Update to Supplemental Information for the PY 2020 Q4 Reports](#)
- [PY 2021 Report User's Guides](#)
- [New Resources on QPP Library: Now Available](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

Application and Change Request Cycle Documents Now Available; NOIA Opens June 1st

CMS has released several documents for the January 1, 2022, application cycle:

- [Key Application Actions and Deadlines](#)
- [How to Submit a Notice of Intent to Apply in ACO-MS](#)
- [Shared Savings Program Participation Options for Performance Year 2022](#)
- [ACO Banking Form Instructions](#)

Additional updates to the [Application Toolkit](#) are forthcoming. Refer to the [Application Types & Timeline webpage](#) for updated information. Please note dates are subject to change.

To inform currently participating ACOs about actions they can take during Phase 1 of the change request submission period, CMS released the *Change Request Cycle for Performance Year Beginning on January 1, 2022*, posted in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#).

Beginning June 1, 2021, CMS will accept Notices of Intent to Apply (NOIAs) via 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).

FY 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System and Long Term Care Hospital Rates Proposed Rule Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Now Available for Comment

On April 27, 2021, CMS issued a proposed rule entitled, “Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Proposed Policy Changes and Fiscal Year 2022 Rates; Quality Reporting and Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Programs Requirements for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals; Proposed Changes to Medicaid Provider Enrollment; and Proposed Changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Program.”

This proposed rule includes proposed changes to policies for the Shared Savings Program to allow eligible ACOs participating in the BASIC track’s glide path to elect to forgo automatic advancement along the glide path’s increasing levels of risk and potential reward for Performance Year (PY) 2022.

CMS encourages ACOs to review and submit comments on the proposed rule. Public comments on the proposed rule are due **June 28, 2021**.

For more information, refer to the following:

- Fact Sheet: [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long Term Care Hospital \(LTCH\) Rates Proposed Rule \(CMS-1752-P\)](#)
- Press Release: [CMS Proposes to Enhance the Medical Workforce in Rural and Underserved Communities to Support COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond](#)
- Proposed Rule: [FY 2022 IPPS/LTCH PPS](#)

Notice of Update to Supplemental Information for the PY 2020 Q4 Reports

CMS updated supplemental information provided to Prospective ACOs as a part of the PY 2020 Quarter 4 (Q4) Report Packages. The National Assignable Year-to-Date column provided to Prospective ACOs in Column I of Table 3 of the *Aggregate Expenditure/Utilization (EXPU) Report* included Q3 values instead of Q4 values. ACOs can find the corrected Q4 National Assignable Year-to-Date values in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#).

PY 2021 Report User's Guides

The PY 2021 report user's guides: *Assignment List Report and Assignment Summary Report User's Guide*, Version 13 (V13) and the *Annual and Quarterly Aggregate Expenditure/Utilization and Beneficiary Expenditure/Utilization Reports User's Guide*, V11 are now available and can be found in the Program Resources section of the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#) by searching "Performance Year 2021 Report User's Guides." These user's guides provide detailed information about the data elements included in the referenced program reports.

New Resources on QPP Library: Now Available

CMS has added many new Quality Payment Program (QPP) resources to the QPP Resource Library. This list below identifies materials that are most relevant to Shared Savings Program ACOs at the time of publication. CMS will continue to provide relevant information for ACOs as it becomes available.

Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)

2021 CMS Web Interface and Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) materials:

- [2021 CMS Web Interface Quick Start Guide](#) (PDF): Provides information needed to understand and report 2021 data via the CMS Web Interface.
- [2021 Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems \(CAHPS\) for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\) Survey via the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Approved Survey Vendor Reporting](#) (PDF): Explains the 2021 CAHPS for MIPS Survey.
- [2021 MIPS Quality Benchmarks](#) (ZIP): New and updated resources that list and explain the 2021 benchmarks used to assess performance in the quality performance category.

Alternative Payment Models (APMs)

[Alternative Payment Models in the Quality Payment Program as of November 2020](#) (PDF): Displays an updated, comprehensive list of APMs of the QPP for PY 2020 and PY 2021.

For more information contact the QPP at 1-866-288-8292 or by e-mail at: QPP@cms.hhs.gov.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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)

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021, 11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Join here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs
- **Description:** The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) will present to Shared Savings Program ACOs on functionality available in certified health information technology (IT) products to support ACOs. This presentation provides an overview of the 2015 Edition of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) certification criteria for health IT and the recent updates to the criteria that support improved interoperability for health IT products. The presentation will also include an overview of how certified health IT supports capture and reporting of quality measure data. ACOs will walk away with a greater understanding of how to capture data from their electronic health records in order to submit their aggregated quality measures.

MSSP Learning System Webinar: Transforming Care for Patients With Complex Clinical Needs—Care Plans and Care Coordination Tools

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021, 2:30 P.M.–3:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register here](#)
- **Audience:** All ACOs
- **Description:** ACO speakers and health researcher Dr. Taressa Frazee, University of California, San Francisco, will highlight how ACOs leverage care plans to support patients with complex needs and improve care coordination. ACO presenters will describe how they identify and engage beneficiaries with complex needs in care planning discussions and care coordination programs. Presenters will also discuss stakeholder engagement, including provider education. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions during the webinar.

Registration Now Open for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaboratives Series

Registration is now open for the Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) series for ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program. The Learning System will host five 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 request 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.

DATE	TIME	REGISTRATION
May 13 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by May 6 th
May 20 th	1:00–3:30 p.m. ET	Register here by May 13 th
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

Interested in presenting?

ACO staff interested in presenting formally at a VLC meeting are encouraged to express interest using the [Spring 2021 Virtual Learning Collaborative Speaker Submissions](#) survey. If your proposal is selected, a member of CMS' Learning System team will contact you to discuss a potential presentation.

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

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

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