

## AT A GLANCE

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### UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Application Submissions to Shared Savings Program Due: June 15, 2023**

### EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CMS Web Interface Data Submission Support Call**  
March 8<sup>th</sup> | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

### PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [Application and Change Request Cycle Dates Available for a January 1, 2024 Start Date](#)
- [The Path Forward: Improving Data to Advance Health Equity Solutions](#)
- [New Knowledge Library Tip Sheet: Now Available](#)
- [Seeking ACO Speakers for April Webinar: Strengthening Provider Partnerships](#)
- [Case Study on Clinica Family Health's Integrated Behavioral Health Model](#)
- [Case Study on Nephrology Associates Medical Group's Care Coordination Program](#)

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

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### Application and Change Request Cycle Dates Available for a January 1, 2024 Start Date

The application steps and timeline for a January 1, 2024 agreement start date with the Shared Savings Program are now posted on the [Shared Savings Program Application Types & Timeline webpage](#). Beginning May 18, 2023, CMS will accept applications via the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#). Application submissions are due no later than **June 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time (ET)**. For a detailed overview of all actions and deadlines available throughout the cycle, reference the [Key Application Actions and Deadlines](#) resource document.

Please be advised that there will no longer be a separate Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) period for the Shared Savings Program application cycle. ACOs must register in ACO-MS in order to start their application during the application submission period. For initial applicants, this will also allow them to create their ACO-MS access. If your ACO does not register and complete the Phase 1 application requirements before the deadline, your ACO cannot apply to the Shared Savings Program for the upcoming performance year (PY).

Additionally, new ACO-MS functionality will be released when the application and change request cycle opens which will provide immediate beneficiary assignment estimates for each ACO Participant taxpayer identification number (TIN) at submission.

Currently participating ACOs should only apply as Early Renewal Applicants if they want to terminate the existing participation agreement and start a new agreement period. If your ACO makes that decision, you must navigate to the Agreement Details subtab in ACO-MS to register as an Early Renewal Applicant and submit your application by **June 15, 2023, at noon ET**.

Currently participating ACOs do not need to register or take any action to stay in your current ACO Participation agreement. The [Change Request Cycle for Performance Year Beginning on January 1, 2024](#) resource document has been posted in the ACO-MS Knowledge Library with the dates for this year's change request cycle and contains a detailed overview of all actions and deadlines available throughout the cycle.

Refer to the [Shared Savings Program Application Types & Timeline webpage](#) for a comprehensive overview of all relevant dates.

## The Path Forward: Improving Data to Advance Health Equity Solutions

In November 2022, the CMS' Office of Minority Health released [The Path Forward: Improving Data to Advance Health Equity Solutions](#), which outlines a plan to tackle health equity data efforts across CMS programs to achieve health equity by underlining the importance of health equity data collection and chart the next steps for CMS to improve data collection efforts and, in turn, to advance health equity.

For additional information on the white paper linked above, please refer to the blog entitled, "[The Path Forward: Improving Data to Advance Health Equity Solutions](#)."

## New Knowledge Library Tip Sheet: Now Available

CMS recently released an update to the ACO-MS Knowledge Library, including enhanced search capabilities, customizable features, and an improved dashboard layout. A new tip sheet resource, [Finding Resources in the ACO-MS Knowledge Library](#), is available to provide ACO-MS users with instructions for navigating the modifications. The tip sheet serves as a quick introduction to the revised environment and guides users through using the search filters to find resources on topics relevant to their ACO.

ACOs are encouraged to contact their ACO Coordinators with any questions regarding the ACO-MS Knowledge Library enhancements.

## Seeking ACO Speakers for April Webinar: Strengthening Provider Partnerships

The Value Based Care (VBC) Learning System will host a webinar on Thursday, April 27, 2023, highlighting how ACOs identify and encourage new providers to join their ACO. Topics might include, but are not limited to, identifying prospective providers across primary and specialty care fields, structuring partnerships to advance the ACO's value-based care goals, and communicating the value-based care incentives of ACO participation.

**Does your ACO have a provider partnership story to share?**

Please express interest in presenting by emailing Juliana Conway ([JConway@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:JConway@mathematica-mpr.com)) with the subject line "Provider Participation Webinar" and a brief description of your ACO's provider engagement efforts by close of business Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Case Study on Clinica Family Health's Integrated Behavioral Health Model

This case study from the VBC Learning System describes how Clinica Family Health, a network of Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) clinics in Colorado participating in the Community Health Provider Alliance ACO, delivers behavioral health services in a primary care setting.

To increase access to care, Clinica's integrated behavioral health (IBH) model incorporates three core components:

- (1) Fully integrating behavioral health providers in the primary care setting;
- (2) Prioritizing the provision of real-time integrated care that benefits the patient and works for the primary and behavioral health care providers; and
- (3) Using electronic health record tools and team processes to plan and coordinate care. Clinica's IBH model could be instructive for participants in the Shared Savings Program model and other organizations seeking to provide behavioral health services in a primary care setting.

The [Clinica Family Health's Integrated Behavioral Health Model](#) can be found by searching for webinars within the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#).

## Case Study on Nephrology Associates Medical Group's Care Coordination Program

This case study from the VBC Learning System describes how care coordination at Nephrology Associates Medical Group (NAMG), a participant in the Kidney Care Choices (KCC) Model, improves the quality and experience of care for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end stage renal disease. Care coordinators proactively engage patients to ensure they receive appropriate education on CKD, dialysis modality options, and transplantation, as well as necessary

referrals and tests. Since the creation of the care coordination department in 2017, NAMG has seen a reduction in loss to follow-up, an increase in optimal dialysis starts, and an increase in transplantation rates. This case study may be useful for organizations that are developing care coordination programs.

The “[Nephrology Associates Medical Group: How Care Coordination Improves Quality, Outcomes, and the Experience of Care](#)” can be found by searching for webinars within the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#).

## EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### CMS Web Interface Data Submission Support Calls

WEDNESDAYS, 1:00 P.M.–2:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- **Register:**
  - [March 8, 2023](#)
  - [March 22, 2023](#)
- **Audience:** For groups, virtual groups, and ACOs that are reporting data for the quality performance category through the CMS Web Interface for the 2022 performance period.
- **Description:** CMS is hosting a series of CMS Web Interface Support Calls for those that are reporting data for the quality performance category through the CMS Web Interface for the 2022 performance period. The support calls will highlight important information, provide updates on reporting quality data, and offer an opportunity for ACOs to engage in question-and-answer sessions with CMS subject matter experts. To attend the support calls, you must register for each by clicking on the links above.

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

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### ACO Coordinator

To help ACOs navigate questions regarding the Shared Savings Program, **please contact your ACO Coordinator as your first line of contact.** These additional resources are also available:

#### ACO Information Center

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

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. ET

- 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](mailto:QPP@cms.hhs.gov)

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET

- Inquiries related to MIPS, APMs, MACRA, CAHPS® for MIPS survey, quality measures, quality reporting for 2017 and future years, and CMS Web Interface
- 1-866-288-8292
- For hearing impaired customers, please dial 711 to be connected to a telecommunications relay service (TRS) Communications Assistant

[CCSQ Support Central](#): Request Support, Schedule a Call, Chat Support

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