

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Application Submissions to Shared Savings Program for a January 1, 2024 Start Date**
Due: June 15, 2023
- **Early Renewal Applications**
Due: June 15, 2023
- **USCDI+ Quality Data Element List Comments**
Due: June 16, 2023, at 12:00 a.m. (midnight) ET
- **Phase 1 RFI-1**
Due: August 1, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Shared Learning Webinar: ACO REACH Building Relationships with Community-Based Organizations**
June 15th | 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **VBC Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar: Advancing Health Equity for Beneficiaries Living with Chronic Disease**
June 20th | 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **Registration Open for Summer Virtual Learning Collaboratives**
July 13th | 1:00–3:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **Shared Savings Program Application – Making the Most of Phase 1 RFI-1**
July 14th | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [Reminder: Early Renewal Applications Due at Noon on June 15, 2023](#)
- [Reminder: PY 2024 Change Request Cycle Submission Closes June 15, 2023](#)
- [Draft USCDI+ Quality Data Element List: Now Available for Public Comment](#)
- [PY 2023 Q1 Opioid Utilization Report: Delivered June 8, 2023](#)
- [Behavioral Health Integration Services: Find Out What Medicare Covers & Who Is Eligible](#)
- [June CCLF Files](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

Reminder: Early Renewal Applications Due at Noon on June 15, 2023

The early renewal application Phase 1 submission period for the performance year beginning on January 1, 2024, closes Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time (ET).

ACOs must submit their application via the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#) by June 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.

There is no longer a separate Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) period for the Shared Savings Program application cycle.

An ACO should only apply as an Early Renewal Applicant if it is electing to voluntarily terminate its ACO Participation Agreement with an effective termination date of December 31st of the current performance year and is applying to participate in a new agreement period starting on January 1st of the upcoming calendar year without a break in participation.

Refer to the [Application Toolkit](#) for updated resources to assist with the completion of your application.

Reminder: PY 2024 Change Request Cycle Submission Closes June 15, 2023

The change request cycle Phase 1 submission period for the performance year beginning on January 1, 2024, closes Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.

Currently participating ACOs may take the following actions described in the [Change Request Cycle for Performance Year Beginning on January 1, 2024](#) schedule, which can be found in the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#).

Modifications to an ACO's Participant List and/or SNF Affiliate List

- ACOs may modify their ACO Participant and/or Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Affiliate Lists during the change request cycle for Performance Year (PY) 2024.
- New ACO-MS functionality now provides immediate beneficiary assignment estimates for each ACO participant taxpayer identification number (TIN) at submission. Refer to the [Beneficiary Assignment Estimates in ACO-MS](#) tip sheet for more information.

Note: The final opportunity for ACOs to submit new change requests to add ACO participants and/or SNF affiliates is during the first Phase 1 request for information (RFI-1) submission period, **which closes on August 1, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.**

Participation Options

An ACO may submit a Participation Options change request to:

- Change the ACO's selected beneficiary assignment methodology.
- Voluntarily elect a higher level within the BASIC track's glide path. ACO-MS will create a task for the ACO to submit draft repayment mechanism documentation after submitting.
- Select the minimum savings rate (MSR)/minimum loss rate (MLR) for the remainder of the ACO's agreement period (if advancing to a performance-based risk model).

ACOs automatically advancing from a one-sided to two-sided risk model level (Level C, D or E) on the BASIC track's glide path will have a Participation Options change request automatically generated on their dashboard. ACO-MS will create a task for the ACO to submit draft repayment mechanism documentation after submitting.

ACOs at Level A or B of the BASIC track and that started their agreement period on January 1, 2023, have the option to elect to maintain participation in Level A or Level B of the BASIC track for the remainder of their agreement period. This option is available until Phase 2 RFI-2 closes on September 5, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET. Eligible ACOs will see a banner on their dashboard with this option.

For more information, refer to the [Overview of Participation Options in ACO-MS](#) tip sheet, available in the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS.

Repayment Mechanism

- An ACO that needs to establish a repayment mechanism can download a repayment mechanism documentation template or sample that will automatically populate some of the ACO's information from within the repayment mechanism task in ACO-MS.
- An ACO establishing a repayment mechanism should submit draft repayment mechanism documentation during the initial submission period of the change request cycle.

For more information, refer to the [Repayment Mechanism Arrangements Guidance](#).

SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver

- Eligible currently participating ACOs may apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver without renewing their participation in the Shared Savings Program.
- ACOs must elect to apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver application and add SNF affiliates by the Phase 1 RFI-1 deadline on August 1, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.

For more information, refer to the [Skilled Nursing Facility 3-Day Rule Waiver Guidance](#).

Beneficiary Incentive Program (BIP)

- Eligible currently participating ACOs may apply to establish and operate a BIP. ACOs have the opportunity to submit a BIP application during Phase 2 of the application process.

For more information, refer to the [Beneficiary Incentive Program Guidance](#).

Draft USCDI+ Quality Data Element List: Now Available for Public Comment

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) announced the draft United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI)+ Quality data element list is available for public comment and the USCDI+ Quality Draft Data Element List Overview Guide is available on the [eCQI Resource Center website](#). ACOs can submit comments to the [USCDI+ Quality tracker](#) in the [ONC Project Tracking System](#). To submit a comment, you must have an active Jira account. If you do not have one, you may create an account [here](#). The ONC requests feedback on this first draft of the USCDI+ Quality data element list, particularly on its level of completeness, level of specificity, and usefulness of companion guidance. Comments are due by **12:00 a.m. (midnight) ET on Friday, June 16, 2023**.

PY 2023 Q1 Opioid Utilization Report: Delivered June 8, 2023

CMS released the informational *PY 2023 Quarter 1 (Q1) Opioid Utilization Report* package on June 8, 2023. The report package was delivered to your ACO as a zip file that includes a cover notice and the opioid report. The report is accessible through the [ACO-MS Data Hub](#). The download is titled "Opioid Measures Report (zip)." The zip file is named with the following convention: "P.Axxxx.ACO.QQR." This file will be available through the Data Hub tab in the ACO-MS indefinitely.

For additional assistance, the informational [Opioid Utilization Report Overview video](#) is available to help review the contents of the quarterly *Opioid Utilization Report* and details of the three opioid utilization measures.

Behavioral Health Integration Services: Find Out What Medicare Covers & Who Is Eligible

Behavioral health integration (BHI), incorporating behavioral health care with primary care, is an effective strategy to improve mental, behavioral, or psychiatric health for many patients. Medicare covers two types of BHI services:

1. Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) approach: Use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 99492–99494 and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code G2214 to bill.
2. General BHI services using models of care other than CoCM: Use CPT code 99484 and HCPCS code G0323 to bill.

According to [42 CFR § 425.400\(c\)](#), for purposes of assigning beneficiaries under the Shared Savings Program, CMS considers most of the BHI codes listed above to be primary care services.

Eligibility is based on the clinical judgment of the billing practitioner. Eligible conditions include:

- Mental health
- Behavioral health, including substance use disorder
- Psychiatric health

Refer to [Behavioral Health Integration Services](#) to learn more, including:

- Service components or parts
- Requirements for an initiating visit, supervision, and advance consent

More Information:

- [Addressing & Improving Behavioral Health webpage](#)
- [Care Management webpage](#)

June CCLF Files

June Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files for the PY 2023 assignable or prospectively assigned beneficiaries have been made available to ACOs in the Data Hub tab of [ACO-MS](#).

The June delivery timeline for the CCLF files and 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 2023 Beneficiary Exclusion and MBI XREF files	Week of June 12 th	P.A****.ACO.MBIY23.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.Y23.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2023	Excluded Beneficiary MBI XREF File delivered in June 2023 (txt) Beneficiary Data Sharing Exclusion File delivered in June 2023 (xml)
PY 2023 CCLFs	Week of June 19 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCY23.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2023	CCLF delivered in June 2023 (zip)

ACOs should refer to the [CCLF Information Packet \(IP\)](#), Version 36 (V36), and the [ACO and ACO-OS Data Exchange User Guide](#) (DEUG), V11, for additional information on the CCLF and Exclusion files. The CCLF IP is available on the [Program Guidance & Specifications webpage](#), and the DEUG can be found in the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS.

If you have any questions about ACO-MS or require technical assistance, click the SSP Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner) or email SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shared Learning Webinar: ACO REACH Building Relationships with Community-Based Organizations

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023, 2:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all ACO Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) Model staff, Shared Savings Program ACOs, Kidney Contracting Entities (KCEs), and CMS Kidney Care First (KCF) Practices.
- **Description:** Join us Thursday, June 15th at 2:00 p.m. ET for a webinar on building relationships between ACOs and Community-based Organizations (CBOs). The webinar will highlight considerations and strategies for ACOs addressing patients' health-related social needs (HRSNs) and health disparities by partnering with community-based social service organizations to provide additional supports and wrap-around care. The webinar will feature a REACH ACO and a CBO partner discussing their collaborative approach to addressing patients' social needs.

VBC Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar: Advancing Health Equity for Beneficiaries Living with Chronic Disease

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023, 3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all ACO REACH Model staff, Shared Savings Program ACOs, KCEs, and CMS KCF Practices. Team members in executive, clinical, data management, and care coordination roles may be most interested in attending.
- **Description:** Join us on Tuesday, June 20th at 3:00 p.m. ET for a webinar focused on addressing health disparities for beneficiaries living with chronic disease(s). A peer value-based care (VBC) entity will discuss how their team is identifying disparities among beneficiaries with chronic diseases, monitoring improvements in these health disparities, and improving care for beneficiaries living with chronic diseases in ways that can be applied across a range of chronic conditions.

Registration Open for Summer Virtual Learning Collaboratives

MULTIPLE DATES, 1:00 P.M.–3:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- Please RSVP to one virtual learning collaborative (VLC) using the links below:
 - July 13, 2023 | [Register Here](#) by June 29th
 - July 27, 2023 | [Register Here](#) by July 13th
 - August 10, 2023 | [Register Here](#) by July 27th
 - August 24, 2023 | [Register Here](#) by August 10th
- **Audience:** To promote collaboration during this meeting, all attendees must be directly affiliated with either an ACO or CMS. Third party vendors are not invited.
- **Description:** The VBC Learning System is pleased to invite you and your ACO colleagues to join a VLC this summer. Each VLC will convene ACOs across the country to connect with peers and collaborate on strategies to address HRSNs among their beneficiaries. Meeting attendees will participate in virtual knowledge-sharing activities, an ACO panel discussion, and small group breakout rooms. Attendance is limited to ensure all interested ACOs have the opportunity to meaningfully connect with their peers through interactive breakout sessions. CMS invites each ACO to register for the meeting that best aligns with your team's schedule. CMS requests you limit your enrollment to three participants per ACO; these three attendees may attend the same or different meetings, at their convenience. ACOs should prioritize staff who work on quality and performance improvement initiatives. Each VLC meeting will have a limit of 150 participants.

Shared Savings Program Application – Making the Most of Phase 1 RFI-1

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023, 1:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all Shared Savings Program ACOs and applicants that are responding to the Phase 1 RFI-1.
- **Description:** Join us as CMS hosts an office hours webinar to assist applicants in responding to the Phase 1 RFI-1, which opens July 11th and closes August 1st at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

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 SSP 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

Quality Payment Program Service Center

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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