

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Phase 1 RFI-2**
Due: September 5, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET
- **CAHPS for MIPS Survey Vendor Authorization Tool**
Due: September 13, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. ET

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Learning System Shared Learning Webinar: Substance Use Disorder Resources and Strategies for ACOs**
August 15, 2023 | 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **SSP Learning System: Virtual Learning Collaborative Meeting**
August 24, 2023 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **Shared Savings Program Application Webinar: Finalizing Phase 1 & Preparing for Phase 2**
August 30, 2023 | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [CAHPS for MIPS Survey Vendor Authorization Tool: Opened August 8th](#)
- [PY 2024 Change Request Cycle: Phase 1 RFI-2 Actions Available](#)
- [Episode-Based Payment RFI](#)
- [PY 2023 Q2 Report Package: Available Soon](#)
- [August CCLF Files](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

CAHPS® for MIPS Survey Vendor Authorization Tool: Opened August 8th

On August 8, 2023, the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Survey Vendor Authorization Tool opened. Each ACO's Primary Authorized to Sign (ATS) contact should have received an individualized link to access the online Vendor Authorization Tool from mips-cahps@rand.org (if a Primary ATS was not designated, the link will be sent to the Secondary ATS or ACO Executive). Your ACO's Primary ATS contact, or their designee, must authorize a vendor using the web-based Vendor Authorization Tool by **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)**.

The list of [2023 CAHPS for MIPS Survey Approved Vendors](#) is available in the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) Resource Library](#). If you have questions about selecting a survey vendor or completing the vendor authorization process, please contact mips-cahps@rand.org, (888) 580-7732, or your ACO Coordinator.

PY 2024 Change Request Cycle: Phase 1 RFI-2 Actions Available

The second Phase 1 request for information (RFI-2) of the Performance Year (PY) 2024 Change Request Cycle will **be open August 22nd through September 5th at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET**. RFIs will be assigned. Navigate to your Dashboard in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#) to view and correct identified deficiencies and resubmit the change request task(s).

Currently participating ACOs may take the 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 of [ACO-MS](#).

During the Phase 1 RFI-2 response period, ACOs will have a final opportunity to:

- Upload executed agreements and merger/acquisition documentation.
- Change the merged/acquired indicator on pending change requests.
- **Withdraw or delete** ACO participants and/or **withdraw** Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) affiliates.
- Submit a Participation Options change request to change the ACO's selected beneficiary assignment methodology, voluntarily elect, or automatically transition to a higher level within the BASIC track's glide path, and select the minimum savings rate (MSR)/minimum loss rate (MLR) (if applicable).
- Submit repayment mechanism documentation (if applicable).
 - The final repayment mechanism amount will be available in both the Application Cycle subtab of ACO-MS and the *Participation Options Report*.
- For ACOs whose agreement period began on January 1, 2023, and are participating at Level A or B of the BASIC track: Elect to maintain participation at Level A or B of the BASIC track for the remainder of your agreement period.

ACOs cannot:

- Add/edit any ACO participant or SNF affiliate taxpayer identification numbers (TINs).
- Elect to apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver.

Additionally, you should review the Application Cycle subtab and *Participation Options Report* provided with RFI-2. The *PY 2024 Participation Options Report Data Dictionary*, which can be found in the Application Cycle subtab (via the information bubble), contains more information on the data available in your ACO's *Participation Options Report*.

Episode-Based Payment RFI

CMS is pleased to announce the release of a new RFI that will inform the development of the next episode-based payment model. The RFI is part of the CMS Innovation Center's ongoing strategy to test models and innovations that support access to high-quality, integrated specialty care—for both ongoing care and procedural or acute care services. The model will focus on accountability for quality and cost, addressing health equity, and creating connections between specialty and primary care providers. CMS recognizes that transitioning to value-based care (VBC) can be challenging and is committed to supporting providers through CMS models. CMS is particularly interested in hearing from ACO participants on how this model can be designed to complement ACOs and improve the beneficiary experience as they transition between settings and providers.

Please refer to the Federal Register posting for more details and information on how to submit comments: [Request for Information: Episode-Based Payment Model](#). The RFI has a 30-day comment period, and comments are due on Thursday, August 17, 2023.

PY 2023 Q2 Report Package: Now Available

CMS released the PY 2023 Quarter 2 (Q2) report packages to ACOs in the Data Hub tab of [ACO-MS](#) on August 8th.

The report packages were 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 Payments (NCBP) file*

Note: ACOs without NCBP during the report period will not receive the NCBP file.

ACOs can find their PY 2023 Q2 report packages as a zip file under "PY 2023" in the Data Hub tab of ACO-MS with the file name "P.Axxxx.ACO.QEXPU.D239999.T0200000." The "D239999" indicates the reports are applicable for PY 2023, and "T0200000" indicates the reports are applicable to Q2 of PY 2023.

Data related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) episodes and diagnoses included in PY 2023 Q2 reports will reflect the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023. Only qualifying inpatient discharges that occurred between January 27, 2020, (the start date of the PHE) and May 11, 2023, (the end date of the PHE) were used to identify COVID-19 episodes or diagnoses for the purposes of reporting and use in Shared Savings Program calculations. The last possible COVID-19 episode month is June 2023 (i.e., the month after triggering discharges between May 1–11, 2023).

For additional information about the Q2 report package, refer to the Q2 cover notice and the [Performance Year 2023 Report User's Guides](#) available on the [Program Guidance & Specifications webpage](#) in the PY 2023 Shared Savings Program Report Templates zip file. These report user's guides provide detailed information about the data elements included in the referenced program reports.

August CCLF Files

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

The 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 2023 Beneficiary Exclusion and MBI XREF files	Week of August 7 th	P.A****.ACO.MBIY23.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.BNEX.Y23.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2023	Excluded Beneficiary MBI XREF File delivered in August 2023 (txt) Beneficiary Data Sharing Exclusion File delivered in August 2023 (xml)
PY 2023 CCLFs	Week of August 14 th	P.A****.ACO.ZCY23.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2023	CCLF delivered in August 2023 (zip)

ACOs should refer to Version 36 (V36) of the [CCLF Information Packet \(IP\)](#) and V11 of the [ACO and ACO-OS Data Exchange User Guide](#) (DEUG) for additional information on the CCLF and Exclusion files. The CCLF IP is available on the Shared Savings [Program Guidance & Specifications webpage](#), and the DEUG is available in the Program Resources section in the Knowledge Library tab of ACO-MS. For technical assistance, please contact the ACO Information Center using the SSP Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner).

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learning System Shared Learning Webinar: Substance Use Disorder Resources and Strategies for ACOs

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023, 3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all Shared Savings Program ACOs; ACO Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) Model; and Kidney Contracting Entities (KCEs) staff. Team members supporting beneficiaries with behavioral health needs and substance use disorders (SUDs) or participating in care management efforts may be most interested in attending.
- **Description:** Join us for a webinar focused on resources and strategies Shared Savings Program ACOs may leverage when supporting beneficiaries with substance use disorders (SUDs). The event will feature presenters from

the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), who will summarize research around SUD-related emergency department and primary care interventions, and a Shared Savings Program ACO participant, who will share lessons learned from implementing a medication-assisted treatment program and integrated care services. Through this meeting, ACOs will:

- Identify interventions that address SUDs available to ACOs, such as available medication and counseling, screening, and behavioral health integration.
- Contextualize SUD within Medicare benefits and broader healthcare trends.
- Share resources for delivering SUD interventions to the Medicare population.

SSP Learning System: Virtual Learning Collaborative Meeting

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023, 1:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [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 Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) this summer. Each VLC will convene ACOs across the country to connect with peers and collaborate on strategies to address Health-Related Social Needs (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 Webinar: Finalizing Phase 1 & Preparing for Phase 2

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023, 1:00 P.M.–2:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all Shared Savings Program ACOs and applicants that are either participating in or applying for the PY 2024 Application Cycle.
- **Description:** The Shared Savings Program will be hosting an office hours webinar to assist applicants in finalizing Phase 1 submissions, which closes September 5th at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET, and preparing for Phase 2, which opens October 19th at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

ACO Coordinator

For questions regarding the Shared Savings Program, **your ACO Coordinator is your first line of contact.** For further assistance, reach out to the SSP Helpdesk or Quality Payment Program (QPP) Service Center. Refer to the section below to determine which center to contact.

ACO Information Center

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

- Shared Savings 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, MACRA, CAHPS® for MIPS survey, CMS Web Interface, quality measures, quality reporting, and Promoting Interoperability measures
- 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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