

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 | ISSUE 23

## AT A GLANCE

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### EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Cross-Model Health Equity Learning System Webinar: Partnering with Community-Based Organizations to Blend and Braid Resources to Address Health-Related Social Needs**

November 29<sup>th</sup> | 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

### PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [Attention: Phase 2 Disposition Issuance and ACO Signing Event Period Begins](#)
- [Take Action: Update ACO Contacts in ACO-MS When an Employee, Consultant, or Contractor Leaves Your ACO](#)
- [2022 Preview Period for Doctors and Clinicians](#)
- [PY 2023 Q3 Report Package: Now Available](#)
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## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

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### Attention: Phase 2 Disposition Issuance and ACO Signing Event Period Begins

On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, CMS will issue dispositions for ACOs' Phase 2 application submission(s) for PY 2024. These dispositions include the Early Renewal application, Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 3-Day Rule Waiver application, Beneficiary Incentive Program (BIP) application, and Participation Options change requests, as applicable. The dispositions will be labeled either "Approved" or "Denied" in the [ACO Management System \(ACO-MS\)](#).

#### ACO Signing Event

Beginning on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, all approved applicants and currently participating ACOs must log into ACO-MS to review and sign their ACO Signing Event documents. All ACO Signing Event activities must be completed by Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time (ET).

Refer to the below resources for additional information about the ACO Signing Event process and step-by-step instructions:

- [ACO Signing Event Instructions](#)
- [How to Review and Certify the ACO Participant List and ACO Provider/Supplier List in ACO-MS tip sheet](#)
- [Managing the ACO Provider/Supplier List in ACO-MS tip sheet](#)
- [ACO Provider/Supplier Bulk Upload in ACO-MS tip sheet](#)
- [Overview of ACO-MS User Access and ACO Contacts tip sheet](#)

### Take Action: Update ACO Contacts in ACO-MS When an Employee, Consultant, or Contractor Leaves Your ACO

CMS encourages ACO users with administrative privileges to confirm that their ACO contacts are up to date and have access to [ACO-MS](#). Only users with administrative privileges—ACO Executive, CMS Liaison, Authorized to Sign (primary and secondary), and the Application Contacts (primary and secondary)—can manage contact information.

For additional information on how to update contacts or how to add users to ACO-MS, refer to the [Overview of ACO-MS User Access and ACO Contacts](#) tip sheet.

Follow the steps below when an individual leaves your ACO to ensure continuity of communication among remaining personnel and to protect CMS data from disclosure to unauthorized parties:

- **Remove the contact from ACO-MS.** An ACO official (ACO Executive, Authorized to Sign (primary and secondary) Contacts, or CMS Liaison) must remove and/or replace the individual on the Contacts subtab in ACO-MS. If you have questions regarding updating information in ACO-MS, please email [SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov). Please note that once contacts are removed from ACO-MS, if the user was also granted a Quality Payment Program (QPP) Security Official or QPP Staff User role, they will no longer be able to use their ACO-MS login credentials to access the [QPP website](#) and will need to register for QPP separately. The QPP uses the Health Care Quality Information Systems (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) system for credential management. Please go to the QPP website to register with HARP.
- If you are removing an entity with whom your ACO no longer works, you will need to remove that entity from your ACO's Data Use Agreement (DUA) tracking system.

You should review your ACO contacts monthly and keep them updated throughout the year. CMS does not maintain distribution lists for program correspondence. All email distributions are pulled directly from the ACO contacts listed in ACO-MS.

## 2022 Preview Period for Doctors and Clinicians

The Doctors and Clinicians Preview Period opened on November 13, 2023. Shared Savings Program ACOs' 2022 QPP performance information planned for public reporting will be available on the [Care Compare: Doctors and Clinicians Initiative webpage](#) in the downloadable document, [Accountable Care Organization \(ACO\) Performance Information on the Medicare.gov Compare Tool: 2022 Doctors and Clinicians Public Reporting](#). Please note that ACO-level data is not available for viewing via the QPP website during the Preview Period. Shared Savings Program ACOs can review quality performance information in their previously provided 2022 Shared Savings Program Quality Performance Reports and refer to their 2022 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Performance Feedback.

## PY 2023 Q3 Report Package: Now Available

CMS released the Performance Year (PY) 2023 Quarter 3 (Q3) report packages to ACOs in the Data Hub tab of [ACO-MS](#) on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

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 Q3 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.T0300000." The "D239999" indicates the reports are applicable for PY 2023, and "T0300000" indicates the reports are applicable to Q3 of PY 2023.

For additional information about the Q3 report package, refer to the Q3 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.

## CMS Web Interface Resource Change

For PY 2023 quality reporting, the Sample Excel Template file and the Sample Excel Template file with Sample Data will not be posted on the QPP Resource library. ACOs will be able to download their sample file from [ACO-MS](#) beginning on

December 21, 2023. Instructions for downloading the file will be provided. ACOs will be able to download their Excel file directly from the CMS Web Interface when it opens January 2, 2024.

## EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Cross-Model Health Equity Learning System Webinar: Partnering with Community-Based Organizations to Blend and Braid Resources to Address Health-Related Social Needs

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023, 3:00–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** This event is open to all Shared Savings Program ACOs, Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) ACOs, Kidney Contracting Entities (KCEs), and Kidney Care First (KCF) practices. Team members and staff in executive, clinical, data management, and care coordination roles may be most interested in attending.
- **Description:** Join us for a webinar on developing relationships between ACOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) to blend and braid resources to address beneficiaries' health-related social needs (HRSNs). This webinar will feature speakers from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and Shared Savings Program ACOs followed by audience Q&A.

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

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### 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, reports, and performance; ACO-MS; and assistance with user access to CMS systems, including password resets

### 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, 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

*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](mailto:SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov).*