

AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **AIP Spend Plan Updates Due:**
January 15, 2025
- **VBC Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar Survey Due:**
January 17, 2025

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CMS Web Interface Support Calls**
January 22nd | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **2025 Claims Files Overview Webinar**
January 28th | 2:00–4:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)
- **New! VBC Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar on Using Data to Inform a Health Equity Strategy**
February 6th | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET | [Register](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

- [PY 2025 Beneficiary Information Notification Guidance and FAQs: Now Available](#)
- [Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Data Updates in ACO-MS](#)
- [2024 CMS Web Interface Resources: Now Available](#)
- [2024 Quality Reporting Resources: Now Available](#)
- [Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar on Team-Based Approaches to Address Gaps in Care Summary: Now Available](#)
- [December Shadow Bundles Episode Files: Available Soon](#)
- [January 2025 CCLF Files](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

PY 2025 Beneficiary Information Notification Guidance and FAQs: Now Available

CMS has uploaded the *Beneficiary Notification and Education Guidance* and *Beneficiary Information Notification FAQs* for PY 2025. The updated documents can be found in the Knowledge Library tab in the [Marketing and Beneficiary Education Toolkit](#) in [ACO-MS](#).

These updates include an important policy change finalized in the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule. That is, beginning January 1, 2025, CMS has removed the requirement that ACOs must provide the follow-up communication no later than the earlier of the beneficiary's next primary care service visit or 180 days from the date the first standardized written notice was provided. CMS has codified new program requirements at [42 CFR § 425.312\(a\)\(2\)\(v\)\(A\)](#), that require ACOs to provide the follow-up communication no later than 180 days from the date the standardized written notice was provided.

2025 Beneficiary Information Notification templates are available in PDF and HTML web versions and includes the following templates: the *Beneficiary Information Notification*, *Beneficiary Information Notification with SNF*, *Beneficiary Information Notification with SNF and Telehealth*, *Beneficiary Information Notification with Telehealth*, and *Poster*, which are provided in both English and Spanish.

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.

Medicare Enrollment and SNF Star Rating Data Updates in ACO-MS

Throughout the performance year, CMS encourages ACOs to monitor their ACO Participant List and SNF Affiliate List and work with their ACO participants and SNF affiliates to rectify instances of non-enrollment in Medicare or an overall SNF Star Rating below 3 stars.

Accordingly, CMS recently updated the ACO participant and SNF affiliate Medicare enrollment status and SNF Star Rating data for ACOs' review in [ACO-MS](#). CMS will continue to update this data in ACO-MS at the beginning of each month.

To review this data, ACOs may log into ACO-MS and navigate to the ACO Participants and SNF Affiliates subtabs. Any ACO participants or SNF affiliates that may be non-Medicare-enrolled (per the most recent update from [PECOS](#)) and/or have a rating below 3 stars (per the most recent update from [Care Compare](#)) will display with a warning icon. ACOs may also use the available filter options to identify any ACO participants or SNF affiliates with a Medicare enrollment status of "Failed" and/or a SNF Star Rating of "2 or Less Stars."

ACOs should consider contacting and working with ACO participants or SNF affiliates to re-enroll or to ensure SNF affiliates are aware of the need to increase their overall star rating.

For additional information about managing your ACO Participant List and SNF Affiliate List, refer to the [ACO Participant List and Participant Agreement Guidance](#) (PDF) and the [Skilled Nursing Facility 3-Day Rule Waiver Guidance](#) (PDF) on the [Applications Toolkit & Change Request Cycle Resources](#) webpage.

If you have any questions, click the SSP Helpdesk icon (located within the [ACO-MS](#) banner) and submit your inquiry to CMS.

2024 CMS Web Interface Resources: Now Available

Please see the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) Resource Library](#) for the resources listed below:

- [2024 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Web Interface Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [2024 CMS Web Interface Measure Specifications and Supporting Documents](#) (zip)
- [Performance Year 2024 APM Performance Pathway: CMS Web Interface Measure Benchmarks for ACOs](#)
- [CMS Web Interface Data Dictionary 2024 Performance Year](#)
- [2024 CMS Web Interface Sampling Methodology for the Medicare Shared Savings Program](#)
- [2024 CMS Web Interface User Guide](#)
- [CMS Web Interface Support Calls for Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs Reporting 2024 Quality Data](#)

2024 Quality Reporting Resources: Now Available

Please refer to the [QPP Resource Library](#) for the resources listed below:

- [2024 Alternative Payment Model \(APM\) Performance Pathway \(APP\) Data Submission User Guide](#)
- [PY 2024 APP Toolkit](#)
- [2024 Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\) Quality Data Completeness Quick Guide](#)
- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Reporting MIPS Clinical Quality Measures \(CQMs\) and electronic Clinical Quality Measure \(eCQMs\) in the Alternative Payment Model Pathway \(APP\)](#)

Please refer to the [Shared Savings Program webpage](#) for the resources listed below:

- [Medicare Shared Savings Program Quality Performance Standard: 40th Percentile MIPS Quality Performance Category Score for Performance Year 2024](#)
- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Reporting MIPS CQMs and eCQMs in the Alternative Payment Model Performance Pathway \(APP\)](#)
- [2024 APP Quality Requirements](#) (zip) – Shared Savings Program ACOs only

Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar on Team-Based Approaches to Address Gaps in Care Summary: Now Available

The summary of the [Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar on Team-based Approaches to Address Gaps in Care](#) from the Value Based Care (VBC) Learning System highlights key takeaways from the webinar, "Team-based Approaches to Address Gaps in Care," held on October 30, 2024. The webinar featured perspectives from Kidney Care Choices (KCC) entities and Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) ACOs on implementing team-based care to advance model goals and advance health equity.

The *Summary of the Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar on Team-based Approaches to Address Gaps in Care* can be found by checking the learning system resource type in the Knowledge Library tab in [ACO-MS](#).

December Shadow Bundles Episode Files: Available Soon

The December Shadow Bundles monthly episode files will be released the week of January 27th. They can be found under the Shadow Bundles Data Files folder in the Data Hub tab of [ACO-MS](#).

The monthly episode-level files include the following:

- Claims processed as of November 2024;
- Clinical episodes with anchor end dates in CY 2023 and CY 2024;
- Episode-level and setting-specific claims-level data; and
- Information such as trigger codes, beneficiary information, spending information, and whether the episode meets episode-level exclusions.

Note: Only ACOs with attributable clinical episodes will receive files. If an ACO does not receive monthly files, it means that the ACO did not have any attributable clinical episodes.

For additional information, ACOs should refer to the [Shadow Bundle Resources](#) documents, templates, and the [“Introduction to Shadow Bundles Q&A Webinar”](#) available in the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS. For technical assistance, click the SSP Helpdesk icon (located within the [ACO-MS](#) banner).

January 2025 CCLF Files

January 2025 Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files will be available to ACOs the weeks of January 13th and January 27th in the Data Hub tab in [ACO-MS](#). ACOs that previously participated in the Shared Savings Program in PY 2024 and are continuing their participation in PY 2025 will receive either one or two sets of CCLF files based on their assignment methodology selections for 2024 and 2025. All new ACOs will only receive one set of CCLF files for 2025.

The following table lists the CCLF files with the applicable performance year that will be posted in the Data Hub tab in ACO-MS for the ACO’s beneficiary populations:

Note: Exclusion files and Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) XREF files for the CCLF files are expected to be provided to the ACOs the week of January 6th. The files names will include the performance year to help identify the set of CCLF files to which the exclusions are applicable.

ACO CLASSIFICATION	JANUARY CCLF	DATA HUB PY	CCLF DELIVERY DATES	BENEFICIARY POPULATION
New ACOs	One Set	2025	Week of January 27 th	Retrospective assignment: Beneficiaries with a primary care visit with an ACO participant in the last 12 months and voluntarily aligned (VA) beneficiaries. Prospective assignment: PY 2025 prospective beneficiary population and VA beneficiaries.
ACOs continuing with retrospective assignment in 2025	One set	2024	Week of January 13 th	Beneficiaries with a primary care visit with an ACO participant in the last 12 months and VA beneficiaries.

ACO CLASSIFICATION	JANUARY CCLF	DATA HUB PY	CCLF DELIVERY DATES	BENEFICIARY POPULATION
ACOs continuing with prospective assignment in 2025	Two sets	2024 2025	Week of January 13 th Week of January 27 th	PY 2024 prospective beneficiary population and VA beneficiaries. PY 2025 prospective beneficiary population and VA beneficiaries.
ACOs transitioning from prospective to retrospective in 2025	Two sets	2024 2025	Week of January 13 th Week of January 27 th	PY 2024 prospective beneficiary population and VA beneficiaries. Beneficiaries with a primary care visit with an ACO participant in the last 12 months and VA beneficiaries.
ACOs transitioning from retrospective to prospective in 2025	Two sets	2024 2025	Week of January 13 th Week of January 27 th	Beneficiaries with a primary care visit with an ACO participant in the last 12 months and VA beneficiaries. PY 2025 prospective beneficiary population and VA beneficiaries.

FILE TYPE	FILE DELIVERY	FILE NAMING CONVENTION	DATA HUB PY
PY 2024 Exclusion and MBI XREF Files	Week of January 6 th	P.A****.BNEX.Y24.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.ACO.MBIY24.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2024
PY 2025 Exclusion and MBI XREF Files	Week of January 6 th	P.A****.BNEX.Y25.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst P.A****.ACO.MBIY25.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst	2025

ACOs should refer to Version 39 (V39) of the [Claim and Claim Line Feed \(CCLF\) 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 [Program Guidance & Specifications webpage](#), and the DEUG is available in the Knowledge Library tab in ACO-MS. For technical assistance, contact the ACO Information Center using the SSP Helpdesk icon (located within the [ACO-MS](#) banner).

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMS Web Interface Support Calls

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

- **Register:**
 - [January 22, 2025](#)
 - [February 5, 2025](#)
 - [February 19, 2025](#)
- **Audience:** This webinar is for Shared Savings Program ACOs that are reporting data for the quality performance category through the CMS Web Interface for the 2024 performance period.

- **Description:** The support calls will highlight important information, provide updates on reporting quality data, and offer an opportunity for ACOs to engage in Q&A sessions with CMS subject matter experts. To attend the support calls, you must register for each call by clicking on the links above.

2025 Claims Files Overview Webinar

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025, 2:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** CMS strongly encourages technical staff routinely consuming and analyzing data to attend the webinar to prepare system readiness for the receipt of CCLF files or usage of Beneficiary Claims Data API (BCDA). More experienced users of CCLF files or BCDA may find this event repetitive but may glean new information.
- **Description:** CMS will provide detailed information on the data contained within Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) files and the BCDA. All CCLF files and BCDA users are welcome to attend, however, this presentation is geared towards new participants with 2025 start dates.

New! VBC Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar on Using Data to Inform a Health Equity Strategy

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025, 1:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- [Register Here](#)
- **Audience:** While individuals in all roles are welcome to attend, the webinar will likely be of particular interest to staff in data analytics, population health, operational leadership, and clinical roles. This webinar is cross-model, meaning that in addition to Shared Savings Program ACOs, registration is open to Kidney Contracting Entities, Kidney Care First Practices, and REACH ACOs.
- **Description:** Join the VBC Learning System on February 6th at 1:00 p.m. ET for a webinar focused on how VBC entities use qualitative and quantitative data to devise and refine their health equity strategy. If your VBC entity has a success story to informally share at the webinar, please express your interest in being a featured speaker by completing the [February 2025 VBC Cross-Model Health Equity Webinar](#) survey by **January 17th**.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACOs

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

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

ACO Coordinator

Please reach out to your ACO Coordinator if you require any further assistance.

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.