



## Catalog of Value-Based Initiatives for Rural Providers

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## Introduction

The following catalog summarizes rural-relevant, value-based programs currently or recently implemented by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), primarily by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

### **Purpose**

To help rural leaders and communities identify HHS value-based programs appropriate for rural participation.

### **Inclusion Criteria**

HHS value-based programs appropriate for rural clinicians or health care delivery organizations. (The programs may not be exclusively for rural clinicians or health care delivery organizations but are appropriate for and inclusive of rural clinicians or health care delivery organizations.)

### **Program Descriptions**

- Program name (and any aliases)
- Summary
- Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements
- Timeline and key dates
- Payment model/funding
- Current rural participation/impact
- Website information

Each program description is accurate as of the date noted. Users should access the link(s) in the descriptions for the most current program information.

The table on page 1 classifies active models and programs in three areas:

- Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network (HCP-LAN) Alternative Payment Model (APM) Framework Payment Category (<https://hcp-lan.org/apm-refresh-white-paper/>),
- If participation for those eligible is mandatory or voluntary, including clarification where participation is restricted to geographic areas,
- For models run by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), the stage of program implementation.

The catalog also includes three appendices:

- HHS Initiatives which Support Value-Based Care – These include programs that provide technical assistance and support for implementation of activities that advance value-based care which include rural assistance, although may not be limited to rural assistance.
- Inactive Program Archive – These include brief descriptions of value-based care models that are no longer active.
- Acronym List

## Models and Programs by Category, Participation Requirement, and CMMI Stage

Active Model or Program	HCP LAN Category*	Participation Requirement	CMMI Stage <sup>§</sup>
<a href="#">Accountable Care Organization Primary Care Flex Model</a>	2A, 3A/B, 4B	Voluntary	Announced
<a href="#">Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (ACO REACH) Model</a>	4B	Voluntary	Active
<a href="#">Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Advanced</a>	4A	Voluntary	Active
<a href="#">Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics</a>	4A	Voluntary	N/A
<a href="#">Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model</a>	4A	Mandatory <sup>†</sup>	Active
<a href="#">Diabetes Prevention Program Expanded Model</a>	1	Voluntary	Active
<a href="#">Diabetes Self-Management Training</a>	1	Voluntary	N/A
<a href="#">Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model</a>	2C	Mandatory	Active
<a href="#">Frontier Community Health Integration Project Demonstration</a>	1	Voluntary	Demonstration Extended
<a href="#">Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience</a>	2A	Voluntary	Announced – Applications Under Review
<a href="#">Hospital Acquired Conditions Reduction Program</a>	2C	Mandatory	N/A
<a href="#">Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program</a>	2C	Mandatory	N/A
<a href="#">Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program</a>	2C	Mandatory	N/A
<a href="#">Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH)</a>	2A	Voluntary <sup>†</sup>	Announced
<a href="#">Making Care Primary (MCP) Model</a>	1/2A/3A/3B/4B <sup>+</sup>	Voluntary <sup>†</sup>	Announced – Applications Under Review
<a href="#">Maryland Total Cost of Care Model</a>	4B	Mandatory (hospitals) <sup>†</sup> Voluntary (practices) <sup>†</sup>	Active
<a href="#">Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program</a>	2B	Mandatory	N/A
<a href="#">Medicare Shared Savings Program</a>	3A/3B <sup>+</sup>	Voluntary	N/A
<a href="#">Pennsylvania Rural Health Model</a>	4B	Voluntary <sup>†</sup>	Active
<a href="#">Primary Care First</a>	1/3A/4B <sup>+</sup>	Voluntary <sup>†</sup>	Active
<a href="#">Quality Payment Program</a>	2A/2B/2C <sup>+</sup>	Mandatory	N/A
<a href="#">Radiation Oncology Model</a>	4A	Mandatory <sup>†</sup>	Announced
<a href="#">Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program</a>	2A	Mandatory	N/A
<a href="#">States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development Model (AHEAD)</a>	4B	Voluntary <sup>†</sup>	Announced, Accepting Applications
<a href="#">Transforming Maternal Health (TMAH)</a>	2A	Voluntary <sup>†</sup>	Announced
<a href="#">Value in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Demonstration Program</a>	2C/4A <sup>+</sup>	Voluntary	Active
<a href="#">Vermont All-Payer ACO Model</a>	3B	Voluntary <sup>†</sup>	Active

\* Health Care Payment Learning & Action Network (<https://hcp-lan.org/>) health care *payment categories*:

1. Fee-for-service – no link to quality and value
2. Fee-for-service – link to quality and value
  - A. Foundation payments for infrastructure and operations
  - B. Pay-for-reporting
  - C. Pay-for-performance
3. APMs built on fee-for-service architecture
  - A. Upside rewards for appropriate care
  - B. Upside and downside for appropriate care
4. Population-based payment
  - A. Condition-specific population-based payment
  - B. Comprehensive population-based payment
  - C. Integrated finance and delivery systems

<sup>+</sup> Multiple payment categories included within one model

<sup>†</sup> Participation restricted to limited geographic areas

<sup>§</sup> CMMI Stage Not Applicable (N/A) for programs run by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

# Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Primary Care Flex Model

**Aliases:** ACO PC Flex, PC Flex, PC Flex ACO

## **Summary**

ACO Primary Care Flex is a voluntary five-year model test within the Medicare Shared Savings Program (SSP). It will test how prospective payments and increased funding for primary care in ACOs impact health outcomes, quality, and costs of care. The flexible payment design will empower participating ACOs and their primary care providers to use more innovative, team-based, person-centered, and proactive approaches to care.

The goals of the ACO PC Flex Model are to:

- Expand access to high-quality, accountable care and improve patient experience.
- Enhance primary care payment and spur innovative approaches to care delivery, such as team-based care, that are proactive and person-centered and drive quality improvement.
- Narrow disparities in health care outcomes.
- Reduce program expenditures while preserving or enhancing quality of care.
- Strengthen participation incentives for new and low-revenue ACOs in the Shared Savings Program.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Participate in the SSP as a low-revenue ACO (ACO-based revenue to participating providers is less than 35 percent of all ACO expenditures for attributed beneficiaries).
- Current SSP participants can apply, and if approved would begin a new agreement period.
- FQHCs and RHCs are eligible, and the model will include adjustments in the primary care per-beneficiary per month (PBPM) adjustment to encourage FQHC and RHC participation.
- ACOs may not participate in the ACO PC Flex Model and also receive SSP Advance Investment Payments.

The model has no relation to HRSA's Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) program which provides funds to states for technical assistance to Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). **Timeline/key dates**

- May 20 – June 17, 2024 - ACOs indicate interest in PC Flex as part of their SSP application
- August 2024 - ACO PC Flex Model applications due (RFA anticipated Q2 2024)
- January 1, 2025: Model Start. CMS expects about 130 ACOs will be selected to participate

## **Payment model/funding**

The model's new Prospective Primary Care Payment (PPCP) option will shift payment for primary care away from fee-for-service, visit-based payment to enhance the predictability and amount of primary care funding. The model also includes a one-time Advanced Shared Savings Payment (\$250,000) to help cover costs associated with forming an ACO and administrative costs for model activities. Specific policies will ensure PPCP funds are used to support primary care.

ACOs participating in the model will receive monthly PPCPs that replace FFS reimbursement for most primary care services. The PPCP is paid to the ACO, and the ACO establishes payment contracts with the providers. The PPCP will be regionally consistent and is made up of two parts:

- PPCP County Base Rate: based on a county's average primary care spending (before social and clinical risk factors are applied). County base rate will not be reconciled against claims expenditures, so will not be impacted by the amount of primary care claims submitted by providers.
- PPCP Payment Enhancements: based on characteristics of the ACO and assigned patient population. For most ACO participants, CMS anticipates this will increase primary care funding. Enhanced payments will not be put at risk, meaning they will not be recouped by CMS.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/aco-primary-care-flex-model>

# Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (ACO REACH) Model

**Aliases:** REACH, REACH ACO

## **Summary**

In 2022, CMS redesigned the [Global and Professional Direct Contracting \(GPDC\) Model](#) to advance health equity and encourage health care providers to coordinate care to improve the care offered to people with Medicare. The ACO REACH model made changes to the GPDC model in three key areas: 1) Advancing health equity by testing an innovative payment approach to better support care delivery and coordination for patients in underserved communities including a focus on reducing health disparities, 2) Promoting provider leadership and governance through increased board representation requirements for providers and beneficiary advocates, and 3) Protecting beneficiaries with more participant vetting, monitoring, and greater transparency. ACO REACH provides opportunities for different health care organizations to participate in Medicare FFS value-based care arrangements. Types of ACOs include:

- Standard ACOs – organizations that have substantial experience serving Original Medicare beneficiaries.
- New Entrant ACOs – organizations with less experience serving an Original Medicare population.
- High Needs Population ACOs – Organizations that serve Original Medicare beneficiaries with complex needs.

CMS announced changes to ACO REACH starting in 2024 that will increase predictability for model participants, protect against inappropriate risk score growth, and further advance health equity. More information on the changes can be found in the [ACO REACH Model Performance Year 2024 Model Update Quick Reference](#).

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Eligible providers include providers in group practice, networks of individual practices of providers, hospitals employing providers, FQHCs, RHCs, and CAHs. Providers must be Medicare-enrolled.
- A Nurse Practitioner (NP) Services Benefit Enhancement allows flexibility for NPs to certify need for a variety of services such as hospice, cardiac rehab, diabetic shoes, home infusion, and medical nutrition therapy.
- Participants develop and implement health equity plans to identify needs and implement initiatives to reduce health disparities. Collection of beneficiary-reported demographic and social needs data is required.
- At least 75% control of the ACO's governing body must be held by participating providers or their designated representatives, and there must be at least two beneficiary advocates with voting rights on the governing board.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- REACH ACO Selection Announced: August 15, 2022
- Model will run from 2023 – 2026

## **Payment model/funding**

Two voluntary risk-sharing options:

- *Professional* offers a lower risk-sharing arrangement of 50% savings/losses with one payment option: Primary Care Capitation, a risk-adjusted monthly payment for primary care services provided by the ACO's participating providers.
- *Global* offers a higher risk sharing arrangement of 100% savings/losses with two payment options: Primary Care Capitation (described above) or Total Care Capitation, a risk-adjusted monthly payment for all covered services, including specialty care, provided by the ACO's participating providers.

The Model also includes a beneficiary-level Health Equity Benchmark Adjustment applied to ACOs serving higher proportions of underserved beneficiaries in order to mitigate the disincentive for ACOs to serve underserved patients by accounting for historically suppressed spending levels for these populations.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

RHCs and CAHs are on the list of potentially eligible participants and may be included in REACH ACO networks. Of the 132 participating REACH ACOs, provider location data could not be found for 19 (14.4%). Half of the remaining ACOs had no nonmetropolitan providers, while the other half had providers (2%-83%) in nonmetropolitan locations.

**Website:** <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/aco-reach>

# Bundled Payments for Care Improvement (BPCI) Advanced

**Aliases:** BPCI Advanced

## **Summary**

Bundled Payments for Care Improvement (BPCI) Advanced is a voluntary episode-based payment model that combines physician, hospital, and other service reimbursements into a single bundled payment to reduce expenditures and improve quality of care. BPCI Advanced builds on past bundled payment initiatives to include payments for 34 Clinical Episodes. Payment is tied to performance on quality measures. BPCI Advanced will operate under a total-cost-of-care concept, in which the total Medicare fee for services (FFS) spending on all items and services furnished to a BPCI Advanced Beneficiary during the Clinical Episode, including outlier payments, will be part of the Clinical Episode expenditures for purposes of the Target Price and reconciliation calculations, unless specifically excluded.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

For purposes of BPCI Advanced, a “Participant” is defined as an entity that enters into a participation agreement with CMS to participate in the Model. BPCI Advanced requires downside financial risk of all participants from the outset of the Model Performance Period. There are two different types of participants. A *Convener Participant* brings together multiple downstream entities, referred to as “Episode Initiators (EIs).” A Convener Participant facilitates coordination among its EIs and bears and apportions financial risk under the Model. These include both eligible entities that are enrolled in Medicare and those that are not as well as Acute Care Hospitals (ACHs) and Physician Group Practices (PGPs). A *Non-Convener Participant* is in itself an EI and does not bear risk on behalf of multiple downstream Episode Initiators. These include ACHs and PGPs.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Cohort 1 launched October 1, 2018
- Cohort 2 launched January 1, 2020
- On Oct. 13, 2022, CMS announced that the BPCI Advanced Model will be extended for two years. The BPCI Advanced Model will now conclude on December 31, 2025.

## **Payment model/funding**

BPCI Advanced is a voluntary payment model that provides single retrospective bundled payment with one risk track for a 90-day Clinical Episode duration. There are 30 Inpatient, 3 Outpatient, and 1 multi-setting Clinical Episodes that are included in the payment model. Inpatient Clinical Episodes will begin with an inpatient admission to an acute care hospital and is called the Anchor Stay. Outpatient Clinical Episodes will begin at the start of an outpatient procedure and is called the Anchor Procedure. Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Group (MS-DRGs) used for identifying the Anchor stay and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes will be used for identifying the Anchor Procedure. Total duration of one Clinical Episode is 90 days of the Anchor Stay or the Anchor Procedure. This model qualifies as an Advanced APM as it requires the participant to bear downside risk from the outset. Payment is based on total-cost-of-care concept that involves total Medicare fee for services (FFS) payment, for all services and items provided during the Clinical Episode, plus outlier payments that are reconciled semi-annually against prospectively determined clinical episode-specific target prices.

**Current rural participation/impact:** CMS is not placing limitations on applicants based on geographic region (e.g., Applicants are not limited to a specific MAC jurisdiction), geographic type (e.g., urban, rural), or facility size. Participants in other current and past CMS Innovation Center models and Medicare demonstrations are eligible to apply. CAHs, hospitals participating in the Rural Community Hospital demonstration, and rural hospitals participating in the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model, are excluded from the definition of an ACH for purposes of BPCI Advanced.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/bpci-advanced>



# Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

**Aliases:** CCBHCs

## **Summary**

The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) model is designed to ensure access to coordinated comprehensive behavioral health care. CCBHCs must serve anyone who requests care for mental health or substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age - including developmentally appropriate care for children and youth. CCBHCs have standards for the range of services they provide and are required to get people into care quickly. CCBHCs must have crisis services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

A CCBHC must be one of the following entities:

- A nonprofit organization
- Part of a local government behavioral health authority
- An entity operated under authority of the IHS, an Indian tribe, or tribal organization pursuant to a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or compact with the IHS.

SAMHSA released [updated criteria](#) for CCBHCs in March of 2023. Clinics and states are on different schedules for implementation, with most being required to come into compliance by July 1, 2024. The original criteria for certification of community behavioral health clinics focused on 6 key areas:

- Staffing
- Availability and Accessibility of Services
- Care Coordination
- Scope of Services
- Quality and Other Reporting
- Organizational Authority and Governance

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Eight states participated in a [demonstration program](#) from 2017 – 2019 which was extended. Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. Kentucky and Michigan were added to the demonstration in 2020.
- In June 2022, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act expanded CCBHCs nationwide allowing any state or territory to participate in the demonstration and allocating additional resources for states, and funding for planning, development, and certification of new CCBHCs.
- In September 2021, SAMSHA funded the [National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics-Expansion \(TTA-CCBHC\)](#) to provide support for expansion of the model.
- In March 2023, [updated criteria for certification](#) were released.

## **Payment model/funding**

- CCBHCs can be supported through the Section 223 CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration, through SAMHSA administered CCBHC Expansion (CCBHC-E) Grants, or through independent state programs separate from the Section 223 CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration.
- CCBHCs receive Medicaid payment based on a prospective payment system with a Medicaid per-encounter rate. Rates vary by state, but the structure encourages alignment with value-based purchasing through monthly PPS and/or stratified payment rates for patient subgroups based on need.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- There are more than 450 CCBHCs in operation, including sites in rural areas.

**Latest evaluation information:** [2022 CCBHC Impact Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.samhsa.gov/certified-community-behavioral-health-clinics>

# Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) Model

**Aliases:** Bundled Joints, Joint Bundles

## **Summary**

The Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) model aims to support better and more efficient care for beneficiaries undergoing the most common inpatient surgeries for Medicare beneficiaries: hip and knee replacements (also called lower extremity joint replacements or LEJR). This model tests bundled payment and quality measurement for an episode of care associated with hip and knee replacements to encourage hospitals, physicians, and post-acute care providers to work together to improve the quality and coordination of care from the initial hospitalization/outpatient procedure through recovery. The CJR model has the potential to improve quality in three ways:

- The model adopts a quality first principle, meaning hospitals must achieve a minimum level of episode quality, as determined by a hospital's composite quality score, before receiving reconciliation payments.
- The model incentivizes hospitals to avoid expensive and harmful events, which increases episode spending and reduces the opportunity for reconciliation payments.
- CMS provides additional tools to improve the effectiveness of care coordination by participant hospitals in selected MSAs.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- For the first 2 performance years (PY) of the model, participation in the CJR model was mandatory for all hospitals paid under IPPS and located within 67 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). MSAs are counties associated with a core urban area and have a population of at least 50,000.
- Starting February 1, 2018, 34 of the original 67 MSAs were required to participate, with an exception for low volume and rural hospitals. Participant hospitals in the other 33 original MSAs were given a one-time opportunity to voluntarily opt in to the CJR model during January 2018 for PY 3 - 5.
- Hospitals in one of the 34 required MSAs that are not designated as low volume or rural are required to participate in the CJR model 3-year extension. Non-MSA counties are not eligible for selection.

## **Timeline/Key Dates**

- The program began in April 2016 and will run through December 2024, representing eight PYs.
- Originally scheduled for 5 years, in June 2020, CMS announced a three-year extension of the program and changed the episode definition to include outpatient knee and hip replacements.

## **Payment model/funding**

- The CJR model is a retrospective bundled payment model where CMS provides participant hospitals with a target price for each CJR MS-DRG, prior to the start of each performance year. All providers and suppliers furnishing LEJR episodes of care to patients throughout the year are paid under existing Medicare payment systems. The target price includes a discount over expected episode spending and initially incorporated a blend of historical hospital-specific spending and regional spending for LEJR episodes, with the regional component of the blend increasing over time and eventually being 100 percent regional for PYs 4 - 8.
- Following the end of a model performance year, actual total spending for the episode is compared to the target price for the participant hospital where the beneficiary had the initial LEJR surgery. Depending on the participant hospital's quality and episode spending performance, the hospital may receive an additional payment from Medicare or be required to repay Medicare for a portion of the episode spending.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- There are approximately 324 participant hospitals actively participating in the CJR model for PYs 6 through 8. The list of CJR participant hospitals is available [here](#).

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/cjr>

# Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Expanded Model

**Aliases:** MDPP

## **Summary**

The Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) Expanded Model is a structured behavior change intervention aimed at preventing the onset of type 2 diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries. It consists of a CDC structured evidence-based intervention including a minimum of 16 intensive core sessions. The core sessions are group-based in classroom-style settings providing practical training in long-term dietary changes, increased physical activity, and behavior changes for weight management. These core sessions are followed by monthly meetings for ensuring maintenance of these healthy lifestyle behaviors. The model covers 12 months of core sessions (6 months of core sessions and 6 months of core maintenance sessions) and an additional 12 months of ongoing maintenance sessions. The primary goal of this model is to achieve at least 5% weight loss by participants.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

To become a MDPP supplier, the provider must:

- Possess MDPP preliminary recognition or full CDC DPRP recognition, hold a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) or National Provider Identification (NPI), and pass high categorical risk level enrollment screening.
- Submit an MDPP enrollment application with a list of MDPP coaches and their information including full name, date of birth, Social Security Number (SSN), active and valid NPI, and coach eligibility end date (when applicable)
- Satisfy MDPP supplier standards and requirements as well as other existing Medicare providers or suppliers' requirements and revalidate enrollment every 5 years.
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) must re-enroll as MDPP supplier and use the CMS-1500 claim form while filing for reimbursement. MDPP services should be included as non-reimbursable costs on the case report to avoid any possible duplications.
- MDPP Enrollment Checklist available [here](#). MDPP Supplier Requirement Checklist is available [here](#).

## **Timeline/key dates:**

- Service Start Date: April 2018; Provider enrollment is ongoing.
- November 2023: CMS extends the rule that allows all MDPP suppliers to use specific MDPP COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) flexibilities. The extension will run through December 31, 2027.

## **Payment model/funding**

- Performance-based Payment Model paid by CMS claims system.
- November 2023: CMS simplifies the performance-based payment structure for MDPP by allowing fee-for-service payments for beneficiary attendance, while keeping the performance-based payments for beneficiary weight loss.
- Performance-based Payment Structure:
  - **Core Sessions:** MDPP services initiated after the first visit. Suppliers paid based on the beneficiary attendance, regardless of the beneficiary's weight loss.
  - **Core Maintenance Sessions:** Paid in 2 installments with 3-month intervals, based on beneficiary attendance goals. Payment is increased if 5% weight loss goal is achieved during the interval.
  - **Ongoing Maintenance Sessions:** Paid in 4 installments with 3 months intervals only when two ongoing maintenance sessions and 5% weight loss goal is achieved during the interval.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

Among the 322 suppliers, 17 suppliers were not listed as "approved" or did not have "full" or "preliminary" recognition from CDC. Many MDPP supplier locations are clustered around large urban areas, with far fewer supplier locations in rural areas. Nevada, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Vermont still have no MDPP supplier locations. Alabama, New Mexico and Wyoming previously lacked an MDPP supplier location in March 2020 but have since gained at least one supplier. Likewise, some large urban areas that lacked an MDPP supplier in 2020 had at least one by 2022.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/Medicare-diabetes-prevention-program>

# Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT)

**Aliases:** DSMT, Diabetes Self-Management

## **Summary**

CMS provides reimbursement for Medicare beneficiaries for diabetes self-management training (DSMT), under certain conditions. The program aims to educate diabetic patients on how to cope and self-manage their diabetes. The program provides individuals with knowledge and skills necessary for adoption of diabetes self-care behaviors and life-style changes required for improving health outcomes. The training includes instructions on self-monitoring of blood glucose, diet and exercise, insulin treatment plan, and self-management skills. A total of 10 hours of initial training, which includes 1 hour of individual training and 9 hours of group training, in a calendar year is covered by the program. Beneficiaries are qualified for 2 hours of follow-up training per calendar year after 12 months of the initial training.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Medicare Part B beneficiaries with risk of diabetes complications are eligible for the program coverage. A written order is required from the physician or qualified non-physician practitioner involved in management of beneficiary's diabetic condition. People in rural areas can receive services from a practitioner in a different location through telehealth. DSMT services should be ordered by Medicare-enrolled physicians and provided by a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) supplier certified by CMS-approved national accreditation organizations (i.e., American Diabetes Association (ADA) and American Association of Diabetic Educators (AADE)). Becoming a CMS-approved DSMT accreditation organization is voluntary. Only a nonprofit or not-for-profit organization with demonstrated experience in working with individuals with diabetes can apply for accreditation. Information about the DSMT accreditation program is available [here](#).

## **Timeline/key dates**

Medicare reimbursement for DSMT services started in 1997. DSMT payment guidelines were revised on May 29, 2007; August 24, 2012; December 21, 2015.

## **Payment model/funding**

The Part B deductible is applicable. Beneficiaries are required to pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount. The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) is utilized for reimbursement of physician and non-physician providers, and skilled nursing facilities. Indian Health Service and Critical-Access Hospitals are paid at 101% of reasonable cost payment rate. RHCs and FQHCs are not paid under MPFS payment model but instead are paid using all-inclusive reimbursement rates based on the DSMT cost as reported in the facility's cost report. Home Health Agencies are reimbursed based on MPFS non-facility rate. This program doesn't follow any performance or value-based reimbursement payment model. Medicare pays the DSMT services provided through telehealth given that at least 1 hour of in-person instruction is provided to participants in the initial year of the training period. Information about [Medicare Diabetes Coverage](#).

## **Current rural participation/impact**

Rural providers approved for in-person DSMT (not telehealth DSMT) include:

- Critical Access Hospitals
- Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs)
- Home health agencies
- Hospital outpatient departments
- Independent clinics (Freestanding FQHCs and Independent Rural Health Clinics)
- Private physician practices
- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)

**For RHCs:** Only individual DSMT is payable by Medicare Part B. If there is a solo diabetes instructor, this person must be an RD and CDE. The RHC may be able to include the cost of furnishing group DSMT on its annual cost report. It is best to first verify this with the regional MAC.

## **Websites:**

For beneficiaries: <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/diabetes-self-mgmt-training.html>

For providers: [Medicare Diabetes Prevention & Diabetes Self-Management Training \(cms.gov\)](#)

# Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model

**Aliases:** Expanded HHVBP, HHVBP

## **Summary**

Under the Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model, Home Health Agencies (HHAs) receive adjustments to their Medicare fee-for-service payments based on their performance against a set of quality measures, relative to their peers' performance. Performance on these quality measures in a specified year (performance year) impacts payment adjustments in a later year (payment year). The goals remain the same as in the [original model](#) to 1) incentivize HHAs to increase both quality and efficiency of provided care, 2) identify and study the use of new potential quality and efficiency measures in the home health setting, and 3) improve current public reporting processes.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

The model includes all Medicare-certified HHAs in all fifty states, District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022: Pre-implementation year., CMS provided resources and training allowing HHAs time to prepare and learn about the expectations and requirements of the model without risk to payments.
- January 1, 2023: Start date for performance Year 1, CMS begins to assess HHA performance.
- CY 2025 will be the first payment year, with payment adjustment amounts determined on CY 2023 performance.

## **Payment model/funding**

Data from Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS), completed Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) surveys and, claims-based measures are used to calculate HHAs' performance. In a payment year, an applicable percent ranging from –5% to 5% is applied toward Medicare fee-for-service payments.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

All Medicare-certified HHAs in all states are included. Comparison cohorts will be determined based on each HHA's unique beneficiary count in the prior Calendar Year. HHAs are assigned to either a nationwide larger-volume cohort or a nationwide smaller-volume cohort to group HHAs that are of similar size and are more likely to receive scores on the same set of measures for purposes of setting benchmarks and achievement thresholds and determining payment adjustments.

**Website:** <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/expanded-home-health-value-based-purchasing-model>

# Frontier Community Health Integration Project (FCHIP) Demonstration

**Aliases:** FCHIP

## **Summary**

Ten Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are participating in the Frontier Community Health Integration Project (FCHIP) Demonstration, which aims to test new models of integrated, coordinated health care in the most sparsely populated rural counties with the goal of improving health outcomes and reducing Medicare expenditures. The demonstration project tests whether enhanced payments allow rural counties to develop and test new models for the delivery of healthcare services to enhance access to care for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries residing in very sparsely populated areas. This better integrates the delivery of acute care, extended care, and other healthcare services and thereby enhances the integration and coordination of care among providers within the community and reduces avoidable hospitalizations, admissions, and transfers. A specific objective of FCHIP is to support the CAHs and local delivery system in keeping patients within the community who might otherwise be transferred to distant providers.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Eligible entities must:

- Adhere to the requirements of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program of the Social Security Act.
- Describe intent in meeting community health needs in areas of telehealth, nursing facility care, and ambulance services.
- Be located in a state where at least 65 percent of the counties have six or fewer residents per square mile.
- Limited to CAHs in Montana, Nevada, and North Dakota.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Performance period began on August 1, 2016.
- The performance period was scheduled to end on July 31, 2019.
- A Five-Year Extension was announced in August 2021. FCHIP resumed on the next cost report period beginning on or after January 1, 2022.

## **Payment model/funding**

Financial incentives and Medicare payment changes are provided for:

- Ambulance Services – participants are reimbursed 101 percent of reasonable costs of furnishing Medicare Part B ambulance services instead of being paid under the Medicare ambulance fee schedule.
- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)/Nursing Facility (NF) Care – CAHs can maintain up to 35 inpatient beds in contrast to the 25 currently allowed under Medicare. The 10 additional inpatient beds may only be used to provide SNF/NF levels of care. CAHs continue to receive cost-based reimbursement for inpatient and skilled nursing care delivered in the extra beds.
- Telehealth Services – As originating sites for telehealth services, participants are paid at 101 percent of cost for overhead, salaries, fringe benefits, and the depreciation value of the telehealth equipment instead of the physician fee schedule fixed fee currently allowed under Medicare. The distant site practitioners are paid an amount equal to the amount that such practitioners would be paid had such services been furnished without the use of a telecommunications system.

## **Rural participation/impact**

Ten CAHs in three states (North Dakota, 3; Montana, 3; and Nevada, 4) began participating in this demonstration in August 2016. CMS found that ambulance and SNF/NF bed interventions were easily implemented and beneficial. The quality reported was on par with other CAHs, suggesting that telehealth would have proliferated without the demonstration.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Full report](#).

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/frontier-community-health-integration-project-demonstration>

# Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE)

**Aliases:** GUIDE

## **Summary**

Participants in the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) model will establish dementia care programs (DCPs) that provide ongoing, longitudinal care and support to people with dementia and their unpaid caregivers through an interdisciplinary team. Participant providers will connect patients and their caregivers to care navigators who will help them access medical and non-medical resources. The GUIDE Model will focus on dementia care management and aims to improve quality of life for people with dementia, help them remain in their homes and communities, and reduce strain on their unpaid care givers. Participants will bill for the service through the Medicare Physician-Fee Schedule.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Providers eligible to be GUIDE participants are Medicare Part B-enrolled providers/suppliers, excluding durable medical equipment (DME) and laboratory suppliers, who are eligible to bill under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and agree to meet the care delivery requirements of the model as described in the Request for Applications (RFA.) and future participation agreements. The GUIDE Participant must maintain an interdisciplinary care team to meet the care delivery requirements of the GUIDE Model. At a minimum, the interdisciplinary care team must include a “care navigator” and a clinician with “dementia proficiency”. If the participant cannot meet the GUIDE Model care delivery requirements alone, they can contract with other organizations, including both Medicare-enrolled and non-Medicare enrolled entities, to meet the care delivery requirements.

Separate tracks are established for established and new DCPs:

- **Established programs** have an established interdisciplinary care team, including a care navigator, use an electronic health record platform that meets the standards for Certified Electronic Health Record Technology, and meet other care delivery requirements.
- **New programs** must not be operating a comprehensive community-based DCP at the time of model announcement and will have a one-year pre-implementation period to establish their programs.

The model will require participating providers to implement Health-Related Social Needs screenings/referrals and to report annual progress towards achieving the goal of health equity.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Model announced: July 31, 2023.
- GUIDE Request for Applications (RFA) released for the model: Fall 2023, applications were due January 30, 2024.
- Model launch: July 1, 2024. The Model will continue eight years from launch.

## **Payment model/funding**

- New program track safety net providers will receive one-time, lump sum infrastructure payments to support their program development activities before the start of the performance year.
- Providers will receive a per month per beneficiary payment for providing GUIDE model required care management and care coordination services to beneficiaries and caregivers.
- Participants in the GUIDE model will also be able to bill for the respite services they provide to caregivers of beneficiaries with dementia, per an annual respite cap amount.
- A “health equity adjustment” will be provided to increase payments for disadvantaged beneficiaries.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

Any currently eligible provider with an established DCP can participate in GUIDE. CMS will actively seek out the participation of eligible organizations that provide care to underserved communities for participation in the GUIDE Model.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/guide>. [GUIDE Fact Sheet](#).

# Hospital Acquired Conditions Reduction Program (HACRP)

**Aliases:** HAC, HAC penalty program, HAC Reduction Program

## **Summary**

Established by the ACA, the Hospital Acquired Conditions Reduction Program (HACRP) encourages hospitals to improve patient safety and reduce the number of hospital-acquired conditions, such as hospital-acquired infections, pressure ulcers, and hip fractures or hemorrhages after surgery.

For FY 2024, hospital scores are based on six quality measures in two domains:

- CMS Recalibrated Patient Safety Indicator (PSI) 90 (CMS PSI 90)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) measures:
  - Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI)
  - Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)
  - Surgical Site Infection (Colon Surgery and Abdominal Hysterectomy) (SSI)
  - Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) bacteremia
  - Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI)

Hospitals that rank in the bottom 25 percent have payment reduced by one percent for the associated fiscal year. Each year, CMS sends hospitals confidential Hospital-Specific Reports (HSRs) that contain detailed program information and calculations for them to review. CMS gives hospitals 30 days to review their HAC Reduction Program data, submit questions about the calculation of their results, and request corrections to the scoring.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- IPPS hospitals are eligible
- CAHs are exempt

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Program was effective beginning Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (discharges beginning on October 1, 2014).
- Program criteria and scoring are updated annually through the IPPS rule making process.
- FY 2024 HAC reduction Program Key Dates Matrix available [here](#).
- Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, CMS has excluded CY 2020 claims data and CY 2021 HAI data from the HACRP. Timeframes for the CMS PSI 90 measures have also been adjusted.

## **Payment model/funding**

- Hospitals that rank in the worst performing quartile with respect to risk-adjusted HAC quality measures have their payments reduced to 99 percent of what would otherwise have been paid.
- The FY 2024 HAC Reduction Program Fact Sheet available [here](#).
- Scoring methodology infographic located [here](#).
- Hospitals with a Total HAC Score greater than the 75th percentile of all Total HAC Scores will receive a payment reduction of 1 percent on overall Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) payments

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- CAHs are exempt, but rural IPPS hospitals are included.
- In 2019, 800 hospitals were impacted by safety penalties (penalties were waived from 2020 - 2023 due to the COVID PHE).

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/HAC-Reduction-Program.html>



# Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP)

**Aliases:** HRRP, Readmission penalty program

## **Summary**

Established by the ACA, the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) requires CMS to reduce payments to IPPS hospitals with excess readmissions effective for discharges beginning on October 1, 2012. Excess admission ratio (ERR) is calculated by dividing a hospital's number of "predicted" 30-day readmissions for certain conditions by the number that would be "expected," based on an average hospital with similar patients. The HRRP calculates excess admission ratios for six conditions: Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG), and Elective primary total hip and/or total knee arthroplasty (THA/TKA).

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- All IPPS hospitals are eligible.
- CAHs and acute care hospitals in Maryland are exempt.
- Hospitals must have a minimum of 25 cases per applicable condition to have an excess admission ratio calculated.
- Applies only to Medicare Part A payments under IPPS.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- CMS uses a three-year performance period for calculations. For example, payment adjustments for FY 2020 were based on the 3-year performance period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.
- Program criteria and methodology are updated annually through the IPPS rulemaking process.
- FY2024 HRRP Fact Sheet available [here](#). CMS has excluded data from Q1 and Q2 2020 from HRRP calculations due to the COVID PHE.

## **Payment model/funding**

- Payments are adjusted by multiplying the base operating DRG payment amount by the adjustment factor.
- The penalty is capped at a maximum of 3 percent.
- Beginning in FY 2019, CMS updated the methodology to calculate the payment adjustment factor using a stratified methodology to assess a hospital performance relative to other hospitals with a similar proportion of patients who are dually eligible for Medicare and full-benefit Medicaid:
  - Hospitals are assigned to one of five peer groups based on the hospitals portion of dual eligible (beneficiaries that are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid).
  - The stratified methodology calculates the median ERR for each measure and peer group (peer group median ERR). The peer group median ERR is the threshold used to assess hospital performance relative to other hospitals within the same peer group. Hospitals whose ERR is greater than the peer group median are considered to have excess readmissions.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- No specific rural focus, though eligible rural PPS hospitals are included if they meet specified case volume thresholds.
- Due to the shift to a stratified methodology, 43.7% of rural hospitals experienced a lower penalty in 2019 compared with 2018 from the readmissions program.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-for-service-payment/acuteinpatientpps/readmissions-reduction-program.html>

# Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program

**Aliases:** Hospital VBP, Inpatient VBP

## **Summary**

The Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program is part of CMS's long-standing effort to link Medicare's prospective payment system for hospitals to a value-based system to improve healthcare quality, including the quality of care provided in the inpatient hospital setting. The program attaches value-based purchasing to the payment system that accounts for the largest share of Medicare spending, affecting payment for inpatient stays in over 3,500 hospitals across the country. Congress authorized Inpatient Hospital VBP as part of the ACA. The program uses the hospital quality data reporting infrastructure developed for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program, which was authorized by Section 501(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- All IPPS hospitals are eligible.
- CAHs, and acute care hospitals in Maryland are exempt.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- There is a two-year lag between the reporting year and the payment year (i.e., quality scores from 2022 affect payment in 2024).
- Program criteria and scoring are updated annually through the IPPS rule making process.
- For FY 2024, baseline and performance periods for mortality, complications, the patient safety composite measure are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS due to COVID-19. Data from Q1 2020 and Q2 2020 will not be used in the measure calculations.

## **Payment model/funding**

- The Hospital VBP Program is funded by a reduction from participating hospitals' base operating DRG payments (2%). Resulting funds are redistributed to hospitals based on their Total Performance Scores (TPS). The actual amount earned by each hospital depends on the range and distribution of all eligible/participating hospitals' TPS scores for a FY. It is possible for a hospital to earn back a value-based incentive payment percentage that is less than, equal to, or more than the applicable reduction for that program year. The adjustment factor is applied to the base DRG rate and affects payment for each discharge in the relevant fiscal year (Oct 1 – Sept 30).
- Total Performance Scores are calculated using baseline to performance period comparisons in four domains: Person and Community Engagement, Clinical Care, Safety, and Efficiency and Cost Reduction. The four domains are weighted equally at 25 percent each. The metrics included and weighting of the domains is adjusted annually through the IPPS rule making process.
- Hospitals must have a domain score for at least three out of the four domains to have a TPS.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- CAHs are exempt, but rural IPPS hospitals are included.
- In FY 2019, rural hospitals had a higher average total performance score relative to urban hospitals which translated to a higher-than-average payment adjustment (Average Total Performance Score of 42.4 for rural hospitals compared to 38.1 for all participating hospitals).

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/HVBP/Hospital-Value-Based-Purchasing.html>

# Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) Model

**Aliases:** IBH

## **Summary**

The Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) Model is focused on improving quality of care and behavioral and physical health outcomes for Medicaid and Medicare populations with moderate to severe mental health conditions and substance use disorder (SUD). Medicare and Medicaid populations experience disproportionately high rates of mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders and, as a result, are more likely to experience poor health outcomes and experiences such as frequent visits to the emergency department and hospitalizations, or premature death.

The IBH Model seeks to bridge the gap between behavioral and physical health. Practices participating in the IBH Model will screen and assess patients for select health conditions, as well as mental health conditions and/or SUD, in community-based behavioral health practices. IBH is a state-based model, led by state Medicaid Agencies, with a goal of aligning payment between Medicaid and Medicare for integrated services.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

States, including U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, have the option to apply as a whole state, or a specified sub-state region. If selected, a participating state is required to select practice participants – community-based behavioral health organizations or settings that, at the time of application, meet all the following criteria:

- Licensed by the state awardee to deliver behavioral services, either mental health and/or substance use disorder
- Meet all state-specific Medicaid provider enrollment requirements and are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement
- Serve adult Medicaid beneficiaries (age 18 or older) with moderate to severe behavioral health conditions
- Provide mental health and/or substance use disorder services at the outpatient level of care

Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, including those dually eligible, who receive behavioral health care from a participating practice are eligible to receive services as part of the model. All applications will be reviewed by a panel of technical experts.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- January 18, 2024: CMS Announced the IBH Model
- Pre-Implementation Period: Model Years 1-3
- Implementation Period: Model Years 4-8

## **Payment model/funding**

- The selected state Medicaid Agencies will receive cooperative agreement funding to partner with their state’s agencies for mental health and/or SUD to ensure alignment in clinical policies, as well as work with at least one partnering Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) or another intermediary partner, where applicable, to develop and implement the IBH Model in their state.
- Community-based behavioral health practices (“practice participants”) will be responsible for conducting screenings and assessments of behavioral and physical health and health-related social needs, offering treatment as appropriate within their scope of practice, providing “closed loop” referrals to other primary care providers, specialists, and community-based resources, and monitoring ongoing conditions. This approach uses the behavioral health setting as a point of entry to identify and secure further care and facilitate close collaboration with primary and specialty care providers.
- Medicare payments for practice participants will include:
  - Infrastructure funding to support health IT investments and practice transformation.
  - Integration Support Payment (ISP), a prospective risk adjusted PMPM for screening, assessment, coordination, and HRSN screening and referral.
  - Performance-based payments to incentivize quality outcomes.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/innovation-behavioral-health-ibh-model>

# Maryland Total Cost of Care (TCOC) Model

**Aliases:** TCOC Model

## **Summary**

The Maryland Total Cost of Care (TCOC) model will leverage the foundation already developed by Maryland for hospitals and build upon investments from the [Maryland All-Payer Model](#). This model sets a per capita limit on Medicare total cost of care in Maryland, holding the state fully at risk for Medicare beneficiaries. The model encourages person-centered care redesign and provides new tools and resources for primary care providers to better meet the needs of patients with complex conditions to increase the health of its citizens. The model includes Outcomes-Based Credits, which enables CMS to grant the State credits for performance on targets. Model performance requirements include:

- Hospital cost growth per capita for all payers must not exceed 3.58% per year
- Maryland commits to save \$300 million in annual Medicare spending for Part A and B by 2023
- Federal resources will be invested in primary care and delivery innovation to improve population health
- Providers will leverage initiatives and federal programs to align participation in efforts on improving care and care coordination
- Maryland will set aggressive quality of care and population health goals

## **Eligibility and rural relevant requirements**

All Maryland hospitals, both rural and urban, are included. Under the expansion, to the TCOC model starting Jan. 1, 2019, the program also applies to some doctors' visits and other outpatient services, such as long-term care. Community health care providers will be able to choose whether they want to participate in the model.

## **Timeline/Key Dates**

Maryland TCOC will run for an eight-year performance period starting January 1, 2019 and concluding on December 31, 2026. During the final 3 years, CMS and the State will negotiate expanding the model, adopting a new model, or returning to the national prospective payment system. A new track, Track 3, began January 1, 2023, for primary care practices. Track 3 increases the total cost of care accountability of participating primary care practices by introducing upside and downside risk based on practice performance on cost and quality metrics. Track 3 is largely modeled after the [Primary Care First \(PCF\) Model](#).

## **Payment model/Funding**

The TCOC Model includes three programs:

- **Hospital Payment Program:** Each hospital receives a population-based payment amount to cover all hospital services provided during the year, creating a financial incentive for hospitals to provide value-based care and to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations.
- **Care Redesign Program:** Allows hospitals to provide incentive payments to nonhospital providers who partner and collaborate with the hospital and perform care redesign activities to improve quality of care. A participating hospital may only make incentive payments if it has attained certain savings under its fixed global budget and the total amount of incentive payment made cannot exceed such savings.
- **Maryland Primary Care Program:** Incentivizes primary care practices and FQHCs in Maryland to offer advanced primary care services to their patients. Participating practices and FQHCs will receive an additional per beneficiary per month payment directly from CMS to cover care management services.

## **Rural Participation/Impact**

- All Maryland hospitals, both rural and urban are included.
- FQHCs are eligible to participate in the Maryland Primary Care Program.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Full report](#)

**Websites:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/md-tccm>;  
<https://hscrc.state.md.us/Pages/tcocmodel.aspx>

# Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program

**Aliases:** Medicare PI (PI), Formerly known as the Medicare EHR Incentive Program or “Meaningful Use”

## **Summary**

In 2011, CMS established the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs (now known as the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program) to encourage eligible professionals (EPs), eligible hospitals, and CAHs to adopt, implement, upgrade, and demonstrate meaningful use of certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT). Starting in 2018, the PI requirements for EPs were incorporated into the [Quality Payment Program](#) (QPP).

Eligible hospitals and CAHs attesting to CMS are currently required to report on four scored objectives: Electronic Prescribing, Health Information Exchange, Provider to Patient Exchange, and Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange. Participants are also required to report (yes/no) on the Protect Patient Health Information objective: Security Risk Analysis measure and Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) Guides measure. Eligible Hospitals and CAHs must also attest to a variety of security and safety factors and submit electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) as part of the program.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- All eligible hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) that receive federal funds from Medicare are included in the program. Those that do not participate are subject to a negative payment adjustment.
- To be considered a meaningful user and avoid a downward payment adjustment, eligible hospitals and CAHs attesting to the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program will be required to use CEHRT that has been updated to meet [2015 Edition Cures Update](#) criteria.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Program criteria and scoring are updated annually through the IPPS rule making process,
- Reporting year for the program aligns with the calendar year. The program reporting deadline for CY 2022 was February 28, 2023.
- CMS indicated they would start public reporting of eCQMs starting with CY 2021 data, but has not yet added that data to the Care Compare website
- CMS has indicated they will begin public reporting of the total PI score starting with CY 2023 results.

## **Payment model/funding**

- CMS implements a performance-based scoring methodology. Eligible hospitals and CAHs are required to report certain measures from each of the four objectives, with performance-based scoring occurring at the individual measure-level. Each measure will contribute to the eligible hospital or CAHs total Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program score. A minimum of **60 points** is required to satisfy the scoring requirement.
- If an eligible hospital does not meet requirements, the payment adjustment is applied as a reduction to the applicable percentage increase to the Inpatient Perspective Payment System payment rate. If a CAH does not demonstrate meaningful use, its Medicare reimbursement will be reduced from 101 percent of its reasonable costs to 100 percent for that year.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- CAHs that do not participate or meet the minimum threshold of points are subject to a negative payment adjustment. Eligible hospitals and CAHs may apply for hardship exceptions, if applicable, to avoid downward payment adjustments. Hardship exceptions are granted on a case-by-case basis and only if CMS determines that requiring an eligible hospital or CAH to be a meaningful EHR user would result in a significant hardship.
- 994 CAHs met the scoring requirements in the most recent program year.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/regulations-guidance/promoting-interoperability-programs>

# Making Care Primary (MCP) Model

**Aliases:** MCP

## **Summary**

The Making Care Primary (MCP) Model is a voluntary primary care model to be tested beginning in July 2024 for 10.5 years in eight states: Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Washington. It is designed as a multi-payer model with three participation tracks that build upon previous primary care models, such as the Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC), CPC+, Primary Care First (PCF), and the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP). It will provide a pathway for primary care clinicians with varying levels of experience in value-based care to gradually adopt prospective, population-based payments while building infrastructure to improve behavioral health and specialty integration, address patient's health related-social needs, and drive equitable access to care. The MCP communicates its vision for care delivery through three domains: 1) Care Management, 2) Care Integration, and 3) Community Connection.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

To be eligible to apply to participate in MCP, an organization must:

- Be a legal entity formed under applicable state, federal, or Tribal law authorized to conduct business in each state in which it operates.
- Be Medicare-enrolled, and bill for health services for a minimum of 125 attributed Medicare beneficiaries.
- Have the majority (at least 51%) of their primary care sites located in an MCP state.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are eligible to participate
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), current Primary Care First (PCF) practices, current ACO REACH Participant Providers, and Grandfathered Tribal FQHCs are **not** eligible to participate.
- Organizations cannot concurrently participate in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (SSP) and MCP after the first six months of the model. The organization will need to withdraw from SSP before program year 2025, although it can apply to rejoin an SSP ACO after terminating participation in MCP.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Model Announced: June 8, 2023
- Application deadline: November 30, 2023
- Launch date: July 1, 2024 (will run for 10.5 years)

## **Payment model/funding**

MCP is a multi-payer model where participants choose from three progressive tracks based on their experience in value-based care. Track 1 is reserved for organizations with no prior value-based care experience.

- **Track 1 –Building Infrastructure:** Participants develop the foundation to implement advanced primary care services. Payment for primary care is fee-for-service (FFS). CMS will provide additional financial support to help develop care transformation infrastructure and advanced care delivery capabilities.
- **Track 2 – Implementing Advanced Primary Care:** Participants build upon track 1 requirements by partnering with social service providers and specialists, implementing care management services, and systematically screening for behavioral health conditions. Payment for primary care shifts to a 50/50 blend of prospective, population-based payments and FFS payments. CMS will provide additional financial support at a lower level than Track 1 to support building advanced care delivery capabilities.
- **Track 3 – Optimizing Care and Partnerships:** Participants expand upon the requirements of Tracks 1 and 2 by using quality improvement frameworks to optimize and improve workflows, address silos to improve care integration, develop social services and specialty care partnerships, and deepen connections to community resources. Payment for primary care shifts to fully prospective, population-based payment. CMS will provide financial support at a lower level than Track 2 to sustain care delivery activities.

Participants can also earn financial rewards for improving patient health outcomes in each track.

**Website:** <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/making-care-primary>

# Medicare Shared Savings Program (SSP)

**Aliases:** MSSP, Shared Savings Program, Medicare ACO, MSSP ACO.

## Summary

The Medicare Shared Savings Program (SSP) was established by the ACA and is a key component of Medicare delivery system reform initiatives. facilitates coordination and cooperation among providers to improve the quality of care for Medicare FFS beneficiaries and reduce unnecessary costs. Eligible providers, hospitals, and suppliers may participate in SSP by creating or participating in an ACO. The SSP aims to reward ACOs that lower health care cost growth while meeting performance standards on quality of care. Provider participation in an ACO is voluntary.

## Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements

- Eligible providers and suppliers must form a Medicare ACO, and the ACO must apply to CMS.
- ACOs must have at least 5,000 attributed Medicare FFS patients, meet all other eligibility and program requirements and agree to participate in the SSP for at least 5 years.
- Statute and individual program regulations specify the eligibility and program requirements.

## Timeline/key dates

- For standard SSP ACO participation there is an [annual application cycle](#), with the first stage of applications usually occurring in June of the year prior to the agreement start date.
- Updates to program requirements and methodology are made through the annual Federal rule making process.
- Significant rule changes to the SSP are being implemented in January 2023 and 2024, per a November 2022 CMS ruling. See the policy brief created by the Rural Health Value team [here](#) to learn more.

## Payment model/funding

- CMS establishes expenditure targets based on prior year paid claims for care provided to FFS Medicare beneficiaries not attributed to ACOs. CMS continues to make payments on a fee-for-service basis. At the end of the year, actual and targeted spending are reconciled. If actual spending is less than the target and is above the minimum savings rate, *and* if the ACO has performed adequately on access and quality metrics, the ACO and CMS share the difference.
- As specified in the Final Rule published in November 2022, modifications take effect for applicants that start as an ACO in January 2024. The modifications affect inexperienced ACOs, which could include rural ACOs, as they enter five-year agreements under one of two tracks:
  - **BASIC Track:** Standard ACOs move annually along a glide-track with 5 levels that gives the option of starting with one-sided shared savings model (Inexperienced ACOs may remain in level A for all 5 years of the initial agreement period, then move along the glide path in their second 5 year agreement period). ACOs may choose to remain at Level E indefinitely or move to the ENHANCED Track after the initial agreement period.
    - Level A and B: one-sided shared savings model, up to 40 percent share of savings, no shared loss.
    - Level C: two-sided shared savings/shared losses model, up to 50% share of savings, loss sharing limit is 30%. Not to exceed 2 percent of ACO revenue capped at 1 percent of benchmark.
    - Level D: two-sided shared savings/shared losses model, up to 50% share of savings, loss sharing limit is 30%. Not to exceed 4 percent of ACO revenue capped at 2 percent of benchmark.
    - Level E: two-sided shared savings/shared losses model, up to 50% share of savings, loss sharing limit is 30%. Not to exceed 8 percent of ACO revenue capped at 4 percent of benchmark.
  - **ENHANCED Track:** two-sided shared savings/share loss model, up to 75% share of savings, loss sharing limit is 40-75%

## Current rural participation/impact

- RHCs, FQHCs, and CAHs are eligible to participate in ACOs if they meet specific requirements.
- As of January 2024: 513 CAHs and 2,571 RHCs were participating in an MSSP ACO, 33% of all participating ACOs were under one-sided risk.
- PY 2022 Performance Results available [here](#).

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-for-service-payment/sharedsavingsprogram>

# Pennsylvania Rural Health Model

**Aliases:** PA Rural Health Model, PA RHM

## **Summary**

Established as a joint effort between the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model aims to improve health outcomes, while reducing the growth of hospital expenditures and promoting sustainability of rural Pennsylvania hospitals. Payment under the model is based on all-payer global budgets, where payment amounts are pre-established for hospital payments and paid monthly by Medicare and other payers. Pennsylvania's rural hospitals, who must volunteer to participate, are expected to redesign their care delivery to increase quality of care and meet the needs of their local communities. The model is testing whether predictable global budgeting, for both inpatient and outpatient hospital-based services, allows rural providers to further invest in improved quality and preventive care for their populations.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Both Critical Access Hospitals and acute care hospitals in rural Pennsylvania are eligible, as well as other payers including Medicare, Medicaid and commercial plans.
- For this model, Pennsylvania and CMS define 'rural' as a county with less than 284 people per square mile, which is the definition used by the Pennsylvania General Assembly.
- Participation will be phased in over the first four performance years with a goal of 30 hospitals participating by year four of the seven-year program.
- Participating hospitals must develop and submit a Rural Hospital Transformation Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and CMML.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- The Model will run for seven performance years (PYs), between January 12, 2018 and December 31, 2024, with the first performance year (PY0) being a pre-implementation period.
- During PY0 – PY4 (2018- 2022) CMS will provide funding to the state, the state will recruit the participant hospitals and establish participation agreements, and rural hospitals will develop their Rural Hospital Transformation Plans.
- For PY5 and PY6, activities will include continued transformation planning and global budget administration for the participant hospitals.
- Prospectively set, all-payer global budgeting payments will occur in PY1-PY6 (2019-2024).

## **Payment model/funding**

- CMS committed to providing up to \$25 million to Pennsylvania over five years to implement the model.
- The State calculates the global budgets and submits them to CMS for review and approval.
- The model includes commercial and Medicaid participation. Pennsylvania aimed to have 75 percent of participating hospital eligible revenues coming from global budgeting by PY1 (2019) and 90 percent for later performance years.
- Pennsylvania agreed to an all-payer financial target of no more than 3.38 percent in annual hospital spending growth on inpatient and outpatient hospital-based services per resident of Pennsylvania's rural areas served by participating rural hospitals. 3.38 percent represents the compound annual growth rate for Pennsylvania's gross state product from 1997 to 2015.
- Pennsylvania committed to achieving \$35 million in Medicare hospital savings from the rural participants over the course of the model.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- The model was developed specifically for rural hospital participation.
- As of January 2021, 18 hospitals are participating.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/pa-rural-health-model>



# Primary Care First (PCF)

**Aliases:** CMS Primary Cares Initiative, PCF

## **Summary**

Primary Care First (PCF) is a voluntary five-year payment model designed to support delivery of advanced primary care. Built on the underlying principles of the [CPC+ model](#), PCF emphasizes the priority of the doctor-patient relationship, enhanced care for patients with complex chronic health needs, and financial incentives to improve health outcomes. The model implements a set of voluntary five-year payment structures to support delivery of advanced primary care. In Primary Care First, CMS uses a focused set of clinical quality and patient experience measures to assess quality of care delivered at the practice. A PCF practice must meet standards that reflect quality care in order to be eligible for a positive performance-based adjustment to their primary care model payments.

To amplify the impact of the model, PCF is designed as a multi-payer model. Payer partners commit to aligning with the model's payment methodology, quality measurement strategy, and data sharing approach in order to align resources and incentives across a participating practice's entire patient population.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Participation is open to primary care practices with advanced primary care capabilities that meet the following:

- Located in one of the 26 selected regions
- Include primary care practitioners certified in internal medicine, general medicine, geriatric medicine, family medicine, hospice, and palliative medicine
- Provide primary care health services to at least 125 attributed Medicare beneficiaries at a particular location
- At least 50% of collective billing based on revenue is accounted for by primary care services
- Have experience with value-based payment arrangements or payments based on cost, quality, and/or utilization performance
- Use 2015 Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT), support data exchange with other providers and health systems via Application Programming Interface (API), and connect to their regional health information exchange (HIE)
- Demonstrate a set of advanced primary care delivery capabilities via questions in the Practice Application
- Are able to meet the requirements of the Primary Care First Participation Agreement

## **Timeline/Key Dates**

- Primary Care First includes two cohorts of participating practices: Cohort 1 began in January 2021 and Cohort 2 began in January 2022.
- November 2021 – CMS announced the proposed Seriously Ill Population (SIP) component for PCF will not be implemented.

## **Payment model/Funding**

- PCF includes a hybrid total primary care payment that includes a population based PMPM payment for attributed beneficiaries (adjusted by risk based on HCC scores), a flat per visit fee, and a performance-based adjustment providing an upside of up to 50% of model payments as well as a small downside (negative 10% of model payments) incentive.
- A PCF practice must meet standards that reflect quality care in order to be eligible for a positive performance-based adjustment to their primary care model payments.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- [PCF participation](#) is available in 26 regions; several regions are statewide and include rural areas. There are approximately 3,000 practices participating in Primary Care First across both cohorts, and 22 payer partners.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics are excluded from participating in PCF.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/primary-care-first-model-options>

# Quality Payment Program (QPP)

**Aliases:** QPP, MACRA/MIPS

## **Summary**

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) ended the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula for Medicare Part B clinician payment and created the Quality Payment Program (QPP), which links clinician payment to quality. QPP replaced the Physician Quality Reporting System, the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, and the Value Based Modifier. The QPP has two tracks:

- **Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs):** Clinicians that opt to participate in a qualified Advanced APM, through Medicare Part B, will earn an incentive payment.
- **Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS):** Clinicians that participate in traditional Medicare Part B will participate in MIPS and earn a performance-based payment adjustment.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- For MIPS, eligible clinicians are those who bill Medicare Part B more than \$90,000/year for Part B and see more than 200 Part B patients and provide 200 or more covered professional services Medicare Part B patients/year.
  - Eligible clinicians include physicians, chiropractors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, clinical social workers, nurse midwives, dietitians, and certified registered nurse anesthetists.
- RHCs and FQHCs are generally ineligible because they are paid by Medicare under separate systems.
- MIPS adjustments apply to the provider portion of payment for eligible clinicians practicing in Method I CAHs and in Method II CAHs if they have not assigned their billing rights to the CAH.
- Virtual groups are a participation option for solo practitioners and practices with 10 or fewer providers allowing them to submit aggregated data.

## **Timeline/Key Dates**

- There is a lag between performance and payment adjustment (ex. performance in 2019 impacts payment in 2021).
- The QPP Performance Year 2024 begins January 1 and ends on December 31, with reporting due by March 31 of the following calendar year.
- The Quality Payment Program Exception Application Window opens in the Spring/Summer.
- Virtual Group Election is due to CMS by December 31 each year. [Virtual Group Participation Toolkit](#).

## **Payment model/funding**

### **MIPS**

- Positive or negative payment adjustment made based on evidence-based and practice-specific quality data in four areas: Quality, Improvement Activities, Promoting Interoperability, and Cost.
- During the first six payment years of the program (2019-2024), MACRA allows for up to \$500 million each year in additional positive adjustments for exceptional performance.
- In 2021, the program transitioned to a new [MIPS Value Pathways Framework](#) to streamline program requirements.

### **APM**

- Clinicians participating in a Qualifying Advanced APM (QP) are excluded from MIPS reporting and payment adjustments and were eligible for an incentive payment for performance years 2017 – 2023. For performance year 2024 and beyond, they will receive a higher Medicare Physician Fee Schedule update than clinicians than non-QPs.
- Starting in PY 2019, eligible clinicians may become Qualifying Alternative Payment Model Participants (QP) through an [All-Payer option](#).

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- There has been continued improvement in small and rural practice engagement and outcomes. The average final score for rural clinicians went from 63.08 in 2017 to 89.32 in 2020.
- 119,197 rural clinicians participated in MIPS in 2020.

**Latest evaluation information:** [2020 Quality Payment Program Experience Report](#)

**Website:** <https://qpp.cms.gov/>

# Radiation Oncology (RO) Model

**Aliases:** RO Model

## **Summary**

The Radiation Oncology (RO) Model aims to improve the quality of care for cancer patients receiving radiotherapy (RT) and move toward a simplified payment system. The RO Model tests whether bundled, prospective, site neutral, modality agnostic, episode-based payments to physician group practices (PGPs), hospital outpatient departments (HOPD), and freestanding radiation therapy centers for radiotherapy (RT) episodes of care reduces Medicare expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

An RO participant can be any of the following entities: 1) a physician group practice (PGP), including freestanding radiation therapy centers or 2) a Hospital Outpatient Department (HOPD). RO Model participants can participate in the Model as the following:

- **A Professional participant** is a Medicare-enrolled PGP, identified by a single Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) that furnishes only the professional component (PC) of RT services at either a freestanding radiation therapy center or a HOPD.
- **A Technical participant** is an HOPD or freestanding radiation therapy center, identified by a single CMS Certification Number (CCN) or TIN, which furnishes only the technical component (TC) of RT services during an RO episode.
- **A Dual participant** furnishes both the PC and TC of an RO episode for RT services through a freestanding radiation therapy center, identified by a single TIN.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- December 2021: Congress prohibits implementation prior to January 1, 2023
- August 2022: Final rule posted delaying model start to a date to be determined through future rulemaking (TBD).

## **Payment model/funding**

The design of the RO Model includes several key programmatic elements:

- **Episode Payments:** CMS makes prospective, episode-based (i.e., bundled) payments, based on a patient's cancer diagnosis, that cover RT services furnished in a 90-day episode for the 16 cancer types meeting the included cancer type criteria described in the final rule.
- **Site-neutrality:** The Model uses site-neutral payment by establishing a common, adjusted national base payment amount for the episode, regardless of the setting where it is furnished.
- **Professional and Technical Payment Components:** Episode payments are split into professional and technical components to allow the current claims systems for PFS and OPPS to be used to adjudicate RO Model claims and for consistency with existing business relationships.
- **Linking Payment to Quality:** The Model links payment to quality using reporting and performance on quality measures, clinical data reporting, and patient experience as factors when determining payment to RO participants. The Model meets the requirements to qualify as an Advanced APM and a MIPS APM under QPP starting in Performance Year (PY) 1. Quality Guide can be found [here](#).
- **Mandatory Model:** The RO Model is a mandatory model that requires participation from RT providers and suppliers that furnish RT services within randomly selected CBSAs to participate.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- The Model operates in defined, randomly selected, Core-Based Statistical Areas with a population of at least 10,000. Generally, CBSAs do not include extremely rural regions, but they do contain rural RT providers and RT suppliers. If a RO participant has less than 20 episodes, then they are eligible for the low volume opt-out
- Hospital outpatient departments (HOPD) that are part of a CAH will be excluded. HOPDs that are part of a hospital participating in the Pennsylvania Rural Health model are excluded. RT providers and suppliers that only furnish RT in Maryland and Vermont are excluded.

**Website:** <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/radiation-oncology-model>

# Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program (SNF VBP)

**Aliases:** SNF VBP

## **Summary**

The Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program (SNF VBP) aims to reward quality and improve quality of healthcare in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) by establishing incentive payments based on performance on quality measures. The current measure utilized is the Skilled Nursing Facility 30-Day All Cause Readmission Measure (SN FRM), which assesses the risk-standardized rate of all-cause, all-condition unplanned inpatient hospital readmissions of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries within 30 days of discharge from a prior hospitalization. Starting in Program Year 2026, CMS has adopted [additional measures](#) for inclusion in the program.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

All SNFs paid under Medicare's SNF Prospective Payment System (PPS) are included in the SNF VBP Program. The SNF VBP Program is not optional and does not require any action by SNFs to participate. CMS has adopted some exceptions for SNFs with fewer than 25 eligible stays allowing them to be held harmless from penalties. Under the SNF VBP Program, SNFs:

- Are evaluated by their performance on a hospital readmission measure;
- Are assessed on both improvement and achievement, and scored on the higher of the two;
- Receive quarterly confidential feedback reports containing information about their performance; and
- Earn incentive payments based on their performance.

If a SNF can demonstrate that an extraordinary circumstance affected the care that it provided to its patients, and thus affected its subsequent measure performance, CMS will exclude extraordinary circumstance performance from calculations.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- Starting October 1, 2018, SNFs began receiving value-based incentive payments for the quality of care they gave to people with Medicare.
- There is a two-year lag between performance period and payment impact. For example, FY 2021 Medicare FFS payments were based upon FY 2019 performance period in comparison to FY 2017 baseline period.
- FY 2024 key dates timeline available here: [Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program FY 2024 Program Year Timeline \(cms.gov\)](#)

## **Payment model/funding**

- CMS withholds 2% of SNFs' Medicare FFS Part A payments
- CMS redistributes 60% of the withhold to SNFs as incentive payments, and the remaining 40% of the withhold is retained in the Medicare Trust Fund.
- CMS calculates an incentive payment multiplier that accounts for both the 2% payment withhold and any incentive payments earned through performance on the SNFRM. This incentive payment multiplier is applied to the SNF's adjusted federal per diem rate for services provided during the applicable SNF VBP Program year.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

All SNFs paid under the prospective payment system. Eligible SNFs include freestanding SNFs, SNFs associated with acute care facilities, and all non-Critical Access Hospital (CAH) swing bed rural facilities.

- For FY2020, of the roughly 15,000 SNFs, 64.6% were penalized (received less than the full 2% back), of these 32.6% received a full 2% rate cut penalty (up 12% from FY2019). In contrast, 19.4% received a bonus of some amount but only 1.8% or 280 SNFs received the maximum incentive payment of an additional 3.12% (after the restoration of the 2% withhold). 2413 SNFs (15.9%) had a neutral rate adjustment under an exception.
- SNFs that were not for profit, government owned, located in rural areas, and larger were significantly more likely to earn positive incentive payments.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/SNF-VBP/SNF-VBP-Page.html>

# States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development Model (AHEAD)

**Aliases:** States Advancing AHEAD, AHEAD Model

## **Summary**

States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) model is a state total cost of care model that seeks to drive state and regional health care transformation and multi-payer alignment, with the goal of improving the total health of a state population and lowering costs. Under this approach, a participating state uses its authority to assume responsibility for managing health care quality and costs across all payers, including Medicare, Medicaid, and private coverage. States also assume responsibility for ensuring high quality services, improving population health, assuring greater care coordination, and advancing health equity by supporting underserved patients. The AHEAD Model will provide participating states with funding and other tools to address rising health care costs and support health equity.

- CMS expects to award cooperative agreements to up to eight states across two application periods.
- The AHEAD Model is scheduled to operate for a total of 11 years, from 2024 through 2034.
- Primary care practices located in a participating state or sub-state region will have the option to participate in Primary Care AHEAD, the primary care program component of the model.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Eligible entities are state agencies with the authority and capacity to enter into an agreement with the Secretary on behalf of their state and accept funding.
- States will be required to establish a model governance structure to guide implementation of the model.
- All participating states will be required to develop a Statewide Health Equity Plan to define and guide Model activities aimed at reducing disparities and improving population health.
- States applying to participate in AHEAD will be required to select one of three cohorts depending on their readiness to implement the model.
  - **Cohort 1:** 18-month pre-implementation period, tentatively July 2024 – December 2025. Cohort 1's first performance year will tentatively begin in January 2026, with a total of nine performance years.
  - **Cohort 2:** 30-month pre-implementation period, tentatively July 2024 - December 2026. Cohort 2's first performance year will tentatively begin in January 2027, with a total of eight performance years.
  - **Cohort 3:** 24-month pre-implementation period, tentatively January 2025 - December 2026. Cohort 3's first performance year will tentatively begin in January 2027, with a total of eight performance years.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- On November 16, 2023, CMS released the first of two Notice of Funding Opportunities.
- States interested in participating in the model should submit their applications by Monday, March 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. EST (for Cohorts 1 and 2) or by Monday, August 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. EST (Cohort 3).
- The model will conclude for all cohorts of state participants in December 2034.

## **Payment model/funding**

- CMS will provide cooperative agreement funding to selected states for up to 6 years to support their participation in this Model. A maximum of \$12 million may be awarded to each participating state.
- Global budgets will provide hospitals with a fixed amount of revenue for the upcoming year for a specific patient population or program, such as Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries.
- Participating primary care practices will receive a Medicare care management fee to meet requirements for person-centered care.
- Payment methodology for hospital global budgets and Primary Care AHEAD will include adjustments for social risk. Hospitals will also be eligible to earn a bonus for improved performance on disparity-focused measures.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/ahead>

# Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model

**Aliases:** TMaH

## **Summary**

TMaH is a CMS model designed to focus exclusively on improving maternal health care for people enrolled in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The model will support participating state Medicaid agencies (SMAs) in the development of a whole-person approach to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care that addresses the physical, mental health, and social needs experienced during pregnancy. The goal of the model is to reduce disparities in access and treatment. The model aims to improve outcomes and experiences for mothers and their newborns, while also reducing overall program expenditures.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- TMaH is a state-based model, in which state Medicaid agencies serve as model awardees. Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Perinatal Quality Collaboratives, hospitals, birth centers, health centers and Rural Health Clinics, maternity care providers and community-based organizations are critical collaborators to model success.
- Part of TMaH's approach to promoting person-centered care includes expanded access to diverse types of maternity care providers, such as midwives as well as doulas, who provide non-clinical support and guidance.
- CMS will issue Cooperative Agreements to up to 15 state Medicaid agencies.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- December 2023: Model Announcement
- CMS will release a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in Spring 2024
- Application will be due in Summer 2024
- Fall 2024: Applications will be reviewed and States Selected
- January 2025 - December 2027: Pre-implementation Period
- January 2028 - December 2034: Implementation Period

## **Payment model/funding**

- SMAs are the only eligible applicants and may receive up to \$17 million in funding over the course of ten years.
- TMaH's initiatives will center on three main pillars:
  - Access to care, infrastructure, and workforce capacity: TMaH will support relationship building and education to help participating states address barriers that limit access to valuable resources, such as midwives, doulas, and perinatal Community Health Workers.
  - Quality improvement and safety: Participating SMAs will implement quality initiatives and protocols with a goal of making childbirth safer and improving both the mother and baby's overall experience.
  - Whole-person care delivery: Pregnancy and birth are deeply personal experiences, and every person's journey is unique. Under the TMaH Model, participating SMAs will strive to ensure that every mother receives care that is customized to meet their specific needs by supporting the development of a unique birth plan.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/transforming-maternal-health-tmah-model>

# Value in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Demonstration Program

## Aliases: Value in Treatment

### Summary

Value in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Demonstration Program (Value in Treatment) is a 4-year demonstration program authorized under section 1866F of the Social Security Act (Act). The purpose of the demonstration is to increase access of Medicare beneficiaries to opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment services, improve physical and mental health outcomes, and reduce expenditures.

Value in Treatment will test whether the demonstration: reduces hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits; increases use of medication assisted treatment (MAT) for OUD; improves health outcomes for individuals with OUD, including reducing the incidence of infectious diseases such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and hepatitis C (HCV); reduces deaths from opioid overdose; reduces utilization of inpatient residential treatment; and reduces Medicare program expenditures to the extent possible.

### Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements

Entities and individuals enrolled in Medicare, who applied for and were selected to participate in the demonstration program, who establish an OUD care team and uses such team to furnish or arrange for OUD treatment services in the outpatient setting under the demonstration, and who are one of the following types of individuals or entities:

- Physician
- Group practice comprised of at least one physician
- Hospital outpatient department
- Federally qualified health center
- Rural Health Clinic
- Community mental health center
- Opioid treatment program
- Critical Access Hospital
- Clinic certified as a certified community behavioral health clinic pursuant to section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014

### Timeline/key dates

- April 2021 – Selected participants announced, and first performance period begins
- December 31, 2024 – Anticipated end of performance period

### Payment model/funding

The demonstration makes available \$10,000,000 from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 of the Act available each of fiscal years 2021-2024 for demonstration payments.

Value in Treatment will create two new payments for OUD treatment services furnished to applicable beneficiaries:

1. **A per beneficiary per month care management fee (CMF)**, which the participant may use to “deliver additional services to applicable beneficiaries, including services not otherwise eligible for payment under [Title XVIII];” and
2. **A performance-based incentive**, payable based on the participant’s performance with respect to criteria specified by CMS, including evidence-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT), as well as patient engagement and retention in treatment.

Services must be based on an applicable beneficiary’s individualized OUD treatment plan. Applicable beneficiaries have a current diagnosis for OUD, are enrolled under Medicare Part A and Part B, and are not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. Applicable beneficiaries include those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid if the criteria above are also met.

### Current rural participation/impact

The demonstration was open to providers (FQHCs, RHCs, CAHs, and others) that met eligibility requirements. Participants are in 36 states and District of Columbia and include FQHCs, behavioral health clinics, group practices, a Rural Health Clinic, and opioid treatment programs. Selected participants can be found [here](#).

**Website:** <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/value-in-treatment-demonstration>

# Vermont All-Payer ACO Model

**Aliases:** None

## **Summary**

Established as a joint effort between CMS and the state of Vermont, Vermont's All-Payer ACO Model is exploring new ways of paying for health care services that keep the state's health care spending in check and improve the health of Vermonters. The state's dominant payers (Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial health plans) have joined together to test an alternative payment model for providers across the state that incentivizes quality and value in healthcare. By working with providers and payers to align payment models, care models, quality measures, and more, the Model seeks to transform the state's delivery system and improve care for all Vermonters.

The State of Vermont and CMS envision the ACO model as a means to improve care delivery and promote the model as a rational business strategy. By establishing State-level standards for statewide and ACO-level health outcomes, the Model aims to incentivize coordination to achieve the following targets:

- ACO Scale Targets – Scale – the percentage of Vermonters included in the model – is critical to transforming care delivery and achieving financial savings. Vermont's goal, by 2022, was for the Model to include 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries and 70 percent of "Vermont all-payer beneficiaries" (most Vermonters).
- All-Payer and Medicare Financial Targets – the State will limit annualized per capita healthcare expenditure growth to 3.5 percent (and no more than 4.3 percent), and Medicare per capita healthcare growth rate to at least 0.1 percentage point below the national average Medicare growth rate.
- Health Outcomes and Quality of Care Targets – the State will seek improvements in three prioritized areas: access to primary care, deaths from substance use disorder and suicide, and prevalence of chronic conditions.

Additionally, CMS provided five-year extensions for the State's 1115(a) Medicaid demonstration waiver in 2018 and 2022, which allows Medicaid to operate as a full partner in the ACO Model approach.

## **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Participation is voluntary for hospitals and health care practitioners and providers, including rural providers.

## **Timeline/key dates**

- The Vermont All-Payer ACO Model began on January 1, 2017 and will conclude on December 31, 2024.
- There are eight performance years (PY0-PY7), each spanning a full calendar year.
- In 2022, Vermont and CMMI agreed to an [extension of the APM Agreement](#) for one year (2023) with an optional one-year extension (2024).

## **Payment model/funding**

- In 2017, CMS provided \$9.5 million in initial investment to facilitate care coordination among providers in the State and improve collaboration with stakeholders.
- CMS expects at least a portion of funds to be used by Vermont to provide continued support for Vermont's statewide multi-payer patient-centered medical home program, the Blueprint for Health, and the Support and Services at Home (SASH) program, which provides care coordination and social services to Medicare beneficiaries.

## **Current rural participation/impact**

- In 2021, 14 of Vermont's 15 eligible hospitals participated in one or more ACO payer initiatives, 7 of which are Critical Access Hospitals. Rural FQHCs and RHCs are eligible, but participation among small practices is limited. 9 FQHCs participated in 2021.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance Two-pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Websites:** <https://gmcboard.vermont.gov/payment-reform/APM>;  
<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/vermont-all-payer-aco-model>



## Appendix 1: Value-Based Care Support Initiatives

### [Health Care Payment and Learning Action Network \(HCP LAN\)](#)

The Health Care Payment and Learning Action Network (HCP LAN) was established to provide a forum that brings together private payers, providers, employers, state partners, consumer groups, individual consumers, and many others to accelerate the transition from a fee-for-service payment model to value-based and alternative payment models. The HCP LAN goal statement is to accelerate the percentage of US health care payments tied to quality and value in each market segment through the adoption of two-sided risk alternative payment models, and they have set target percentages to be reached by 2025 in the following markets: Medicaid (50%), Commercial (50%), Medicare Advantage (100%), Traditional Medicare (100%). Participants are expected to actively engage in the network by contributing to workgroups, sharing best practices, and learning from peers. A variety of work products have been developed with the intent of supporting implementation and alignment of value-based reimbursement and APMs. Some examples include [APM Framework](#), and [Patient Attribution](#), [Financial Benchmarking](#), and [Performance Measurement](#) models for Population Based Payments. While there is no rural focus, rural payers, providers, state agencies etc. are encouraged to participate in the network and utilize HCP LAN resources

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/health-care-payment-learning-and-action-network>

### [Hospital Quality Improvement Contractor \(HQIC\)](#)

The CMS HQIC (Hospital Quality Improvement Contractor) program began September 2020, under the auspices of the Network of Quality Improvement and Innovation Contractors. This is the latest version of predecessor programs, HIIN (Hospital Improvement and Innovation Network) and HEN (Hospital Engagement Networks).

HQIC is designed to support rural, Critical Access Hospitals and those hospitals that are low performing and serve vulnerable populations in achieving measurable outcomes under the rubrics of patient safety, addressing the opioid epidemic, and care transitions. Additionally, this Task Order shall provide support to hospitals during public health emergencies, epidemics/pandemics, and other crises as they arise.

Nine organizations were selected to implement the HQIC program across the country, and each HQIC was charged with recruiting 250-300 hospitals from the list of 2600 eligible hospitals, which were predominantly in rural and underserved areas. HQIC is not a geographically defined program; as a result, a hospital may be recruited by multiple HQICs, and can only agree to participate with one HQIC.

### [Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organizations \(QIN-QIO\)](#)

The Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program is one of the largest federal programs dedicated to improving health quality for Medicare beneficiaries. By law, the mission of the QIO Program is to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, economy, and quality of services delivered to Medicare beneficiaries.

The QIO Program's 12 Quality Innovation Network-QIOs (QIN-QIOs) bring Medicare beneficiaries, providers, and communities together in data-driven initiatives that increase patient safety, make communities healthier, better coordinate post-hospital care, and improve clinical quality. QIN-QIOs are staffed by health care quality experts and serve regions as small as a single state and as large as nine states/territories, to help implement and spread best and innovative practices for better care while accommodating local conditions and cultural factors. Rural health care organizations are a focus for inclusion in the QIN-QIO improvement initiatives.

**Website:** <https://qioprogram.org/>

## Appendix 2 – Inactive Program Archive

### ACO Investment Model (AIM)

**Aliases:** AIM Model

**Stage:** No Longer Active

#### **Summary**

The ACO Investment Model (AIM) built on previous experience with the [Advance Payment Model](#), testing the use of pre-paid shared savings to encourage new Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) to form in rural and underserved areas. The model encouraged current MSSP ACOs to transition to models with greater risk sharing.

#### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Limited to two groups:

- *New Shared Savings Program ACOs (2015 & 2016)* – AIM encouraged uptake of coordinated, accountable care in rural and other areas underserved.
- *Previously participating ACOs under the MSSP starting from 2012-2014* – AIM helped engaged ACOs transition to higher levels of financial risk, with the goal of improving care and increasing savings.

Other requirements:

- Previously participating ACOs must have reported quality measures to MSSP for previous year.
- Previously participating ACOs must have had a beneficiary assignment less than 10,000 for the most recent quarter. ACOs with a 2015 or 2016 start date must have beneficiary assignment of 10,000 or fewer unless they are serving a rural area.
- The ACO was not owned by a health plan and did not participate in the Advance Payment ACO Model.
- The ACO did not include a hospital as a participant as defined by MSSP, unless the hospital is a Critical Access Hospital or an inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) hospitals with 100 or fewer beds.

#### **Timeline/key dates**

- ACOs had to join by January 1, 2016
- AIM ended in 2018.

#### **Payment model/funding**

Only available for new ACOs that started in 2015 or 2016:

- Upfront, Fixed Payment – \$250,000 payment in the first month of participation
- Upfront, Variable Payment – number of prospectively-assigned beneficiaries multiplied by \$36
- Monthly Variable Payment – monthly payment based on the number of prospectively-assigned beneficiaries multiplied by \$8, for up to 24 months

ACOs that participated in Medicare Shared Savings Program from 2012-2014:

- Upfront, Variable Payment – payment based on the number of prospectively-assigned beneficiaries
- Monthly, variable payment – monthly payment based on the number of prospectively-assigned beneficiaries and the size of the ACO

#### **Rural participation/impact**

Of the 45 AIM ACO participants across 38 states:

36 had at least 65% of their delivery sites in rural areas 27 ACOs reported having a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) or Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) hospital with fewer than 100 beds as part of their ACO structure.

AIM ACOs decreased total Medicare spending and had greater reduction in Medicare spending compared to similar non-AIM ACOs, and reduced spending and utilization compared to Medicare FFS beneficiaries.

**Evaluation:** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Final report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/aco-investment-model>

## Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Model

**Aliases:** AHC Model

### **Summary**

The Accountable Health Communities (AHC) model addressed a critical gap between clinical care and community services in the current health care delivery system by testing whether systematically identifying and addressing the health-related social needs of beneficiaries has an impact on total health care costs and improves health and quality of care. The foundation of the AHC Model was universal, comprehensive screening for health-related social needs of community-dwelling Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries accessing health care at participating clinical delivery sites. The model aimed to identify and address beneficiaries' health-related social needs in at least the following core areas: housing instability and quality, food insecurity, utility needs, interpersonal violence, and transportation needs beyond medical transportation. Over a five-year period, CMS is tested a two-track model that linked beneficiaries with community services:

- **Assistance Track** – Provide community service navigation services to **assist** high-risk beneficiaries with accessing services.
- **Alignment Track** – Encourage partner **alignment** to ensure that community services are available and responsive to the needs of the beneficiaries.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Eligible applicants included community-based organizations, health care provider practices, hospitals and health systems, institutions of higher education, local government entities, tribal organizations, and for-profit and not-for-profit local and national entities with the capacity to develop and maintain a referral network with clinical delivery sites and community service providers.
- The minimum number of beneficiaries that applicants are required to screen annually is 75,000.
- Twenty-eight organizations participated in the Accountable Health Communities Model and all participated in the assistance and alignment tracks. [List of participating organizations](#).
- CMS developed and released its [Health-Related Social Needs Screening Tool](#) in January 2018.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- Participant performance period launched May 1, 2017 and ended April 30, 2022.

### **Payment model/funding**

- The model provided support to community bridge organizations to test service delivery approaches aimed at linking beneficiaries with community services that may address their health-related social needs (i.e., housing instability, food insecurity, utility needs, interpersonal violence, and transportation needs).
- Funds for this model supported the infrastructure and staffing needs of bridge organizations, and do not pay directly or indirectly for any community services.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- A majority of bridge organizations (17) had geographic target areas (GTAs) with no rural counties. The remaining 12 bridge organizations served at least two rural counties, and rural counties made up 50% or more of the GTAs of six of those bridge organizations.
- Among Medicaid beneficiaries and depending on the track, between 11% and 18% lived in rural regions.
- Among FFS Medicare beneficiaries and depending on the track, 17% to 24% lived in rural regions.
- The Assistance track saw higher rates of beneficiaries living in rural regions compared to the Alignment track.

**Latest evaluation information:** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Second Evaluation Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/ahcm>

## [Advance Payment Accountable Care Organization \(ACO\) Model](#)

**Aliases:** Advance Payment ACO Model

**Stage:** No Longer Active

### **Summary**

The Advance Payment Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model was an initiative to provide advance payments to entities like smaller practices and rural providers with limited financial capacity. The intent was to help these organizations participate in the Shared Savings Program (SSP) with financial support to build resources needed to improve care delivery. The model was active from 2012 to 2015.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

To be eligible for the Advance Payment ACO Model, ACOs were required to:

- Participate in the Shared Savings Program,
- Assign at least 5,000 beneficiaries,
- Not include any inpatient facilities (and have total annual revenue less than \$50 million), or include Critical Access Hospitals and/or Medicare low-volume rural hospitals (and have total annual revenue less than \$80 million), and
- Not be co-owned by a health plan or insurer.

### **Timeline/key dates**

Performance period start dates:

- First cohort on April 1, 2012
- Second cohort on July 1, 2012
- Third Cohort on January 1, 2013

Model concluded December 31, 2015

### **Payment model/funding**

The Advance Payment ACO Model was funded by CMMI. Advanced payments were designed to provide both fixed and variable start-up costs. Each selected ACO participants received three types of payments:

- An upfront, fixed payment of \$250,000
- An upfront, variable payment of \$36 per historically assigned beneficiary
- A monthly payment of \$8 per historically assigned beneficiary for 24 months

ACOs receiving the advance payment had a repayment obligation to the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services through generated shared savings in first and subsequent performance years, and any future agreement periods.

Advance Payment ACO providers received Medicare fee-for-service payments and were eligible for shared savings.

### **Rural participation/impact**

The model targeted organizations like small rural and physician-based organizations facing financial barriers to SSP participation. ACO applicants serving rural populations and a higher number of Medicare beneficiaries, and applicants with lower financial capacity, were favored in the application score criteria. The model had 35 participants.

**Evaluation:** [Final report](#)

**Website:** <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/advance-payment-aco-model>

## Section 223 Demonstration Program for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

**Aliases:** Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, CCBHCs, Section 223

**Stage:** No longer active; expanded nationally in 2021; in March 2023 15 additional states received funding grants

### **Summary**

Authorized under Section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA 223), this program was a combined effort by HHS agencies including Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), CMS, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation. It supported state-level efforts to increase access and improve the quality of community-based mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment delivery. In 2015, 24 states received \$22.9 million in planning grants to prepare for a two-year demonstration program. The funding supported states' efforts to:

- Certify CCBHCs based on federally developed criteria – emphasizing accessible and high-quality care.
- Establish a Medicaid PPS payment system for CCBHCs
- Improve data collection and reporting systems
- Engage stakeholders in how the state will implement the program

Eight states were selected for the two-year program based on application and geographic distribution, including rural and underserved areas. In participating states, CCBHCs were reimbursed through Medicaid for behavioral health treatment, services, and supports to Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries using an approved prospective payment system.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Only clinics certified during the planning grant phase and submitted in the demonstration program application were eligible to participate as official CCBHCs. Participating states could continue to certify clinics, though they would not be part of the program evaluation.
- CCBHCs had to be non-profit organizations, state operated clinics, Indian Health Service, or tribal organizations.
- CCBHCs had care coordination requirements which included partnerships with a variety of organizations including FQHCs, and some RHCs, to the extent such services were not provided directly through the CCBHC.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- Selected states announced on December 31, 2016: Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.
- Two-year demonstration programs began July 1, 2017.
- Congress extended this program to November 2019.
- All original participants were extended through November 30, 2020 under CMS waiver 1115.
- February 21, 2023: Participants in CCBHC were permitted to add new CCBHCs using this [guidance](#).

### **Payment model/funding**

- The program required states develop a Medicaid prospective payment system for CCBHC services.
- The match rate for CCBHCs was either the Enhanced FMAP/CHIP rate or the current FMAP for eligible beneficiaries under Medicaid expansion, and down to 90 percent by 2020.

### **Current rural participation/impact**

1. Rural providers could become a CCBHC if they met statute eligibility requirements and listed eligibility.
2. A requirement of the 24 planning grants was to certify at least two CCBHCs in diverse areas, including rural and underserved communities.
3. Telehealth/telemedicine and online services were eligible for inclusion.

**Evaluation:** [Fourth CCBHC Program Report to Congress, 2020](#)

**Website:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/section-223>

## Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model – Community Transformation Track

**Aliases:** CHART- Community Track, CHART

### **Summary**

Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model was designed to allow rural communities to use innovative financial arrangements and leverage their operational and regulatory flexibility to better address health disparities. The CHART Community Transformation Track attempted to:

- Increase financial stability for rural providers through the use of new ways of reimbursing providers that provided up-front investments and predictable, capitated payments that paid for quality and patient outcomes;
- Remove regulatory burden by providing waivers that increased operational and regulatory flexibility for rural providers; and
- Enhance access to health care services by ensuring rural providers remained financially sustainable and offer additional services that address social determinants of health including food and housing.

**January 2024 Update:** Based on feedback received from Model stakeholders, as well as a lack of hospital participation, the CHART Model ended early on September 30, 2023. CMS believes that the lessons learned from the CHART Model will continue to aid in the development of a potential future rural health care model at the CMS Innovation Center. Supporting rural health remains a key priority, and CMS is actively examining additional ways to expand access to high-quality health care and address the unique needs and challenges in rural areas.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

CMS awarded cooperative agreement funding to four entities who served as Lead Organizations: University of Alabama Birmingham, State of South Dakota Department of Social Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and Washington State Healthcare Authority.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- September 2021: Announced four cooperative agreements among four states and organizations
- Pre-Implementation Period: October 2021 – December 2022
- February 2022, CMMI removed a planned Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Track from the CHART model
- November 2022: Announced insufficient participation to proceed with the first Implementation year

### **Payment model/funding**

- Lead Organizations received cooperative agreement funding to recruit Participant Hospitals, develop a community Transformation Plan, engage the state Medicaid agency and other aligned payers, convene an Advisory Council, and ensure compliance with Model requirements.
- Participant Hospitals would have received a predictable capitated payment amount (CPA) and opportunities for operational and regulatory flexibilities. CMS would have replaced Participant Hospitals' Fee for Service (FFS) claim reimbursement with biweekly payments that equal the annual CPA.
- The CHART CPA combined concepts from a global budget and from an ACO into a single hospital payment methodology with the CPA for Participant Hospitals calculated based on Medicare FFS revenue using historical expenditures for Eligible Hospital Services.
- By Performance Period 2 (CY 2024), each Lead Organization had to secure multi-payer alignment from the State Medicaid Agency. Multi-payer alignment from commercial payers was recommended but not required.

### **Rural participation/impact**

CHART specifically targeted rural communities.

**Website:** <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/chart-model>

## Community-Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP)

**Aliases:** Section 3026, Care Transitions Program, CCTP was a component of the Partnership for Patients

**Stage:** No longer active

### **Summary**

Community-Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP), created by Section 3026 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), tested models for improving care transitions from the hospital to other settings and reducing readmissions for high-risk Medicare beneficiaries. The goals of CCTP were to improve transitions of beneficiaries from the inpatient hospital setting to other care settings, improve quality of care, reduce readmissions for high-risk beneficiaries, and document measurable savings to the Medicare program.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and IPPS hospitals partnering with CBOs:

- There were 18 participating sites involved in the Community-Based Care Transitions Program.
- Must have provided care transition services across the continuum of care and have had a formal organizational and governance structure:
  - Care transition services that begin no later than 24 hours prior to discharge.
  - Timely, culturally, and linguistically competent post-discharge education to patients so they understand potential additional health problems or a deteriorating condition.
  - Timely interactions between patients and post-acute and outpatient providers.
  - Patient-centered self-management support and information of beneficiary's condition.
  - Comprehensive medication review including counseling and self-management support.
  - Formal relationships with hospitals, other providers, and consumer representatives.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- Five rounds of participants were announced between 2011 and 2015.
- Final evaluation reports released November 2017.

### **Payment model/funding**

\$300 million between 2011-2015:

- CCTP did not pay for administrative overhead and infrastructure costs.
- CBOs were paid an all-inclusive rate per eligible discharge, determined based on the cost of care transition services provided at the patient level and systemic changes at the hospital level. However, the CBO was paid only once per eligible discharge in a 180-day period for any given beneficiary. Payments from CCTP were only for Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) beneficiaries.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- CBOs were only paid care transition fees for beneficiaries intervened upon immediately following discharge from a partnering IPPS hospital (not a CAH).
- Preference was given to Administration on Aging (AoA) grantees or entities that provide services to medically underserved populations, small communities, and rural areas.

**Evaluation:** [Final report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/CCTP>

## [Comprehensive Primary Care \(CPC\) Initiative](#)

**Aliases:** Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC)

**Stage:** No longer active

### **Summary**

The Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) initiative was a four-year multi-payer initiative designed to strengthen primary care. CMS collaborated with commercial and State health insurance plans in seven regions to offer population-based care management fees and shared savings opportunities to participating primary care practices to support the provision of a core set of five “comprehensive” primary care functions. The initiative tested whether provision of those functions at each practice site – supported by multi-payer payment reform, the continuous use of data to guide improvement, and meaningful use of health information technology – could achieve improved care, better health for populations, and lower costs, and can inform future Medicare and Medicaid policy. The next evolution of this program was [Comprehensive Primary Care Plus \(CPC+\)](#).

### **Eligibility and Rural-Relevant Requirements**

- Seven CPC regions were chosen with the highest market penetration by payers who would align their payment models to support the five functions of CPC.
- Practices were selected in 2012 by an application process based on utilization of health information technology (HIT), ability to demonstrate advanced primary care delivery by appropriate accreditation bodies, service to patients covered by participating payers, participation in practice, transformation and improvement activities, and diversity of geography, practice size and ownership structure.
- CPC practice eligibility excluded Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and practices that participate in an MSSP ACO or other CMS programs that included shared savings.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- Program began in October 2012 and ended in December 2016.

### **Payment model/funding**

CPC integrated a defined payment model and practice redesign focus:

- Payment: Practices received two payments in support of their Medicare/Medicaid FFS patients
  - Practices were paid a monthly, non-visit-based care management fee (averages \$20 per beneficiary in PY 1 – 2, then decreases to \$15 for PY 3 – 4).
  - Annually after PY 1, CPC practices could share in net savings, calculated at the regional level and distributed to participating practices based on their performance on quality metrics.
- Practice Redesign:
  - CPC aimed to help practices support their patients with the following: Access and Continuity, Planned Care for Chronic Conditions and Preventative Care, Risk-Stratified Care Management, Patients and Caregiver Engagement, and Care Coordination across the Medical Neighborhood.
  - Participating CPC practices must have reported progress through a CMS web portal.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- The percentage of rural populations for CPC regions ranged from 5-44%; some of the areas had significant rural populations despite being metropolitan areas (example: Greater Tulsa had 36% rural beneficiaries).
- Since the model focused on primary care payments from Medicare Part B, RHCs and FQHCs were ineligible because they are paid on a fee schedule.
- There were 442 CPC practice sites distributed across seven CPC regions.
- 2,188 participating providers served approximately 2,700,000 patients, of which approximately 410,177 were Medicare & Medicaid beneficiaries.

**Evaluation:** [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/comprehensive-primary-care-initiative>



## [Comprehensive Primary Care Plus \(CPC+\)](#)

**Aliases:** CPC+

**Stage:** No Longer Active

### **Summary**

The Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) was a national advanced primary care medical home model that aimed to strengthen primary care through regionally based multi-payer payment reform and delivery transformation. The program included two practice tracks with incrementally advanced delivery requirements and various payment options.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- 14 regions were selected for participation for Round 1 based on sufficient interest from multiple payers (measured by covered lives and alignment of proposals). Four additional regions (Louisiana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and the Greater Buffalo Region of New York) were selected for Round 2.
- On May 27, 2016, CMS opened practice eligibility to allow participation in both MSSP and CPC+. Initial requirements had stated those participating in an MSSP were not eligible.
- CPC+ met the criteria for an Advanced Payment Model (APM) under the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\)](#).

### **Timeline/key dates**

- CPC+ was a five-year model that began in 2017.
- Round 1 performance period was January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2021.
- Round 2 performance period was originally slated January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2022, but in spring 2021 it was announced that both cohorts would end December 31, 2021.

### **Payment model/funding**

CPC+ included three payment elements:

1. **Care Management Fee (CMF):** Both tracks provided a non-visit-based CMF paid per-beneficiary-per month (PBPM), paid on a quarterly basis, with the amount risk-adjusted for each practice's specific population.
  - \$15 Per Beneficiary Per Month (PBPM) across four risk tiers in Track 1.
  - \$28 PBPM Medicare CMFs across five risk tiers in Track 2; \$100 CMF for medically complex.
2. **Performance-Based Incentive Payment:** CPC+ prospectively paid and retrospectively reconciled a performance-based incentive based on how well a practice performed on patient experience measures, clinical quality measures, and utilization measures that drove total cost of care.
  - Performance-Based Incentives: Track 1 received \$2.50 PBPM; Track 2 received \$4 PBPM.
3. **Payment under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule:**
  - Track 1 continued to bill and receive payment from Medicare FFS as usual.
  - Track 2 practices also continued to bill as usual, but the FFS payment was reduced to account for CMS shifting a portion of Medicare FFS payments into Comprehensive Primary Care Payments (CPCP), which were paid in a lump sum on a quarterly basis absent a claim.

### **Rural participation/impact**

In 2021 there were [2,610 primary care practices](#) participating in Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) in 18 regions, supported by 52 aligned payers.

- No specific rural focus, but Round 1 participation regions encompassed many rural areas including the states of AR, CO, HI, MI, MT, OH, OK, OR, OH, (and northern KY). Round 2 participation regions included LA, NE, ND, and Erie and Niagara Counties of NY.
- Since the model focused on primary care payments from Medicare Part B, RHCs and FQHCs were ineligible because they were paid on a fee schedule.

**Evaluation (most recent):** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Full report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/comprehensive-primary-care-plus>

## Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3)

**Aliases:** ET3

### **Summary**

Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) was a voluntary, five-year payment model that provided greater flexibility to ambulance care teams to address emergency health care needs of Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) beneficiaries following a 911 call. CMS continued to pay to transport a Medicare FFS beneficiary to a hospital emergency department or other covered destination. In addition, under the model, CMS paid participants to 1) transport to an alternative destination partner, such as a primary care office, urgent care clinic, or a community mental health center (CMHC), or 2) initiate and facilitate treatment in place with a qualified health care partner, either at the scene of the 911 emergency response or via telehealth. The ET3 Model ended early on December 31, 2023, two years prior to the performance period end date. This decision was made due to lower than expected participation and lower than projected interventions. Emergency Medical Services remain an area of focus for CMS, they believe that the lessons learned from the ET3 Model can aid in the development of potential future initiatives.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

The Participants of the ET3 Model were Medicare-enrolled ambulance service suppliers and hospital-owned ambulance providers. Upon arriving on the scene of a 911 response, participating ambulance suppliers and providers triaged Medicare FFS beneficiaries to one of the model's interventions. As part of a multi-payer alignment strategy, the Innovation Center encouraged ET3 Model participants to partner with additional payers, including state Medicaid agencies, to provide similar interventions to all people in their geographic areas.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- The selection of applicants was announced on February 27, 2020.
- In response to the COVID-19 PHE, on April 8, 2020, CMS delayed the start of the ET3 Model.
- The model launched on January 1, 2021
- The program closed early on December 31, 2023.

### **Payment model/funding**

- In addition to reimbursement for transport to a hospital or ED, CMS paid participating ambulance suppliers and providers for transport to an alternative destination (such as a primary care doctors office or urgent care clinic), or to provide treatment in place with a qualified health care practitioner at the scene or via telehealth.
- Model participants did not receive additional funding beyond model payments for eligible services.
- For the duration of COVID-19 PHE, CMS temporarily expanded the list of allowable destinations for ambulance transports. Participants in the model were able to continue to access these flexibilities while participating in the model, for as long as they were available.

### **Rural participation/impact**

There were 31 participants that included at least one non-metropolitan county in their service area. Organizations from 36 different states participated in the ET3 Model.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/et3>

## Frontier Extended Stay Clinic (FESC) Demonstration

**Aliases:** FESC Demonstration

**Stage:** No Longer Active

### **Summary**

Frontier Extended Stay Clinic (FESC) demonstration allowed remote clinics to provide extended-stay care, including overnight stays, for patients who required monitoring and observation but did not require hospitalization, or for patients that could not be transferred to acute care hospitals due to adverse weather conditions or other reasons. The demonstration targeted remote clinics that provided brief day-time outpatient patient visits with diagnosis and treatment services. The program was mandated by Section 434 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act for three years and had five participants.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Clinics located at least 75 miles from the closest short-term acute care hospital or Critical Access Hospital, or clinics that were inaccessible by public road were eligible. Conditions of participation included:

- **Staffing requirements:** A physician, a nonphysician provider, or a registered nurse must be on call or onsite 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The on-call clinician must arrive on site within 30 minutes of a patient's after-hours arrival. When the clinic has one or more extended stay patients, there must be a clinical staff on site. No more than four extended stay patients could be treated at one time in a clinic.
- **Facilities and Services:** Extended stay facilities were required to follow ambulatory health care occupancy life safety codes suitable for operating as observation and emergency facilities for up to 48 hours.
- **Administrative Procedures:** Extended stay facilities were required to have either formal agreements or transfer arrangements with acute care hospitals. Clinics were required to have a clinical records system and patient medical report transfer mechanism in place. They were also required to develop a quality assessment and performance improvement program.

### **Timeline/key dates:**

- The first site began Demonstration on April 15, 2010.
- Demonstration ended on April 15, 2013.
- The Report to Congress was posted on November 24, 2014.

### **Payment model/funding**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 provided annual capacity-building grant funding, which was administered by FORHP, to support eligible outpatient clinics for establishing infrastructure, administrative and staffing resources. The Public Health Service Act from HRSA provided additional grant funding to Federally Qualified Health Clinics. HRSA administered the funds through a cooperative agreement with Alaska FESC Consortium.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established a wage-adjusted FESC bundled payment rate per 4-hour unit of time for stays longer than 4 hours with maximum stay of 48 hours. The payment rate was based on Medicare's wage-adjusted hospital outpatient prospective payment rates for observation bed stays. The Alaska Medicaid program also implemented higher payment rates for extended stay services based on all-inclusive ambulatory visit payment rates. Extended stays were qualified for payment if:

- Adverse weather conditions or other factors prevented transfer of patients to an acute care hospital.
- Patients needed extended monitoring and observation for a limited time period that did not require hospitalization.

The FESC legislation required the demonstration to be budgeted neutral to the Medicare program.

### **Rural participation/impact**

The demonstration was designed for rural remote clinics.

**Evaluation:** [Final report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/frontier-extended-stay-clinic>

## [Global and Professional Direct Contracting \(GPDC\) Model](#)

**Aliases:** GPDC, Direct Contracting Model, DCEs, DC Global, DC Professional

### **Summary**

CMS redesigned the GPDC Model renamed the [ACO REACH Model](#).

The Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) model was a voluntary, Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model designed to put patients at the center of their care. It built on the previous CMS ACO initiatives, including the [MSSP](#) and [NexGen](#) Models, and individualized attention to a beneficiary's specific health care needs within Original Medicare while changing financial incentives to reward high quality care. GPDC established model options for participants (Direct Contract Entities or DCEs) to engage in risk-sharing payment approaches with population-based payment (PBP), beneficiary alignment, and enhanced benefits. A key aspect of the GPDC Model was providing new opportunities for a variety of different health care organizations to participate in value-based care arrangements in Medicare FFS. The GPDC Model benefited participating organizations by reducing practices' administrative burden, allowing health care providers greater flexibility in how they delivered care, and rewarding them for improving quality. Types of DCEs included:

- Standard DCEs – DCEs composed of organizations that generally had experience serving Medicare FFS beneficiaries.
- New Entrant DCE – DCEs composed of organizations that had not traditionally provided services to a Medicare FFS population.
- High Needs Population DCEs – DCEs that served Medicare FFS beneficiaries with complex needs.

In February 2022, CMS announced they are permanently cancelling the [Geographic Direct Contracting Model](#), which has been on hold since March 2021.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Eligible providers included providers in group practice, networks of individual practices of providers, hospitals employing providers, FQHCs, RHCs, and CAHs.
- Must have had an identifiable governing body with the authority to execute functions and make final decisions for the DCE, with at least 25% of control being held by participating providers or their designated representatives.
- Current GPDC Model participants that maintained a strong compliance record and agreed to meet all the ACO REACH Model requirements by January 1, 2023 could continue participating in the ACO REACH Model.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- The GPDC Model began in 2020 with an initial implementation period for organizations that wanted to align beneficiaries to meet the minimum beneficiary requirements prior to the start of the first performance year, which began April 1, 2021. The performance period ended December 31, 2022.
- The GPDC Model transitioned to the new ACO REACH Model on January 1, 2023.

### **Payment model/funding**

Two voluntary risk-sharing options:

- *Professional* offered a lower risk-sharing arrangement of 50% savings/losses. It provided Primary Care Capitation, a risk-adjusted monthly payment for primary care services provided by DCE's participating providers.
- *Global* offered a higher risk sharing arrangement of 100% savings/losses. It provided two payment options: Primary Care Capitation (described above) or Total Care Capitation, a risk-adjusted monthly payment for all covered services, including specialty care, provided by DCE's participating providers.

### **Current rural participation/impact**

RHCs and CAHs were included on the lists of potentially eligible participants and may have been included in DCE provider networks.

**Latest Evaluation Report:** [At-a-glance two-pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/gpdc-model>

## [Home Health Value-Based Purchasing \(HHVBP\) Model](#)

**Aliases:** HHVBP Model

**Stage:** No Longer Active, expanded nationally under the [Expanded Home Health VBC Model](#)

### **Summary**

The Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) model was one of the Initiatives to Accelerate the Development and Testing of New Payment and Service Delivery Models in Section 3021 of the Affordable Care Act. It required participating Medicare-certified home health agencies (HHAs) to compete for payment adjustments based on quality performance, in contrast to their current prospective payment system (PPS) reimbursements. The goals of this model were to 1) incentivize HHAs to increase both quality and efficiency of provided care, 2) identify and study the use of new potential quality and efficiency measures in the home health setting, and 3) improve current public reporting processes. HHAs were scored based on a total of six process measures, 15 outcome measures from Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) and Home Health Care Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) data, and three new measures, submitted by HHAs. These scores were compared to previous performance on these measures and to the performance of other home health agencies on these measures within each HHA's respective state. Payments were adjusted by up to a seven percent increase or decrease of current Medicare reimbursable payments based upon the HHA's performance in the identified measures.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

The model included all Medicare-certified HHAs within the states of Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, Washington, Arizona, Iowa, Nebraska, and Tennessee.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- The HHVBP Model was effective on January 1, 2016 and terminated December 31, 2021.
- On January 8, 2021, [CMS announced intent to expand](#) the HHVBP model nationally.
- In November 2021, CMS published the CY 2022 Home Health Proposed Payment System Final Rule which expanded the HHVBP nationally, and ended the HHVBP Model one year early for the HHAs in the nine original Model states.
- The [Expanded HHVBP model](#) begins in CY 2022 with a pre-implementation year. The first performance period will be CY 2023.

### **Payment model/funding**

This model adjusted (either upward or downward) payments based on the following timetable:

- A maximum payment adjustment of 3 percent in 2018.
- A maximum payment adjustment of 5 percent in 2019.
- A maximum payment adjustment of 6 percent in 2020.
- A maximum payment adjustment of 7 percent in 2021.

### **Rural participation/impact**

All HHAs in the following states were participating: Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, Washington, Arizona, Iowa, Nebraska, and Tennessee.

- Rural beneficiaries made up 6.4% of home health beneficiaries across all participating HHVBP states.
- Although they have more significant rural participation, the three HHVBP states with the most pronounced rural populations (Iowa, Nebraska, and Tennessee) together account for only 17% of agencies and 14% of beneficiaries overall in the HHVBP states. Of the participating states, Iowa had the largest percentage of rural home health beneficiaries (24.6%).
- 1,907 home health agencies were in operation, 2,077,228 home health episodes were provided, and 734,951 Medicare FFS beneficiaries were covered across all participating HHVBP states.

**Evaluation (most recent):** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Full report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/home-health-value-based-purchasing-model>

## Independence at Home Demonstration

**Aliases:** IAH

### **Summary**

Through the Independence at Home (IAH) Demonstration CMMI worked with medical practices to test the effectiveness of delivering comprehensive primary care services at home and if doing so improves care for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions.

Selected primary care practices provided home-based primary care to targeted chronically ill beneficiaries for a three year period. Participating practices made in-home visits tailored to an individual patient's needs and coordinated their care. CMS tracked the beneficiary's care experience through quality measures. Practices that succeed in meeting these quality measures while generating Medicare savings had an opportunity to receive incentive payments after meeting a minimum savings requirement.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

Participation in the home-based care demonstration was voluntary for Medicare beneficiaries. As part of their application, the participating practices were required to demonstrate experience providing home-based primary care to high-cost chronically ill beneficiaries. Participating practices included primary care practices and other multidisciplinary teams that were:

- Led by physicians or nurse practitioners
- Had experience providing home-based primary care to patients with multiple chronic conditions
- Served at least 200 eligible beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries were eligible to participate if they have two or more chronic conditions, required human assistance with at least two activities of daily living, had been hospitalized and received acute or subacute rehabilitation services in the prior 12 months, were enrolled in Medicare FFS, and were not in long-term care or hospice at the time of enrollment in the demonstration.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- Two separate cohorts selected for implementation between 2012 – 2015.
- An initial extension was authorized through 2017. A second, 2-year extension authorized in 2018, and a third extension in 2020 authorized the program through December 31, 2023
- Program ended December 31, 2023.

### **Payment model/funding**

- Participating practices were eligible for financial incentives if they succeed in offering high quality care that reduced costs for the Medicare program. To qualify for an incentive payment, the expenditures for participating beneficiaries needed to be lower than the calculated target expenditure, which represented the expected Medicare FFS expenditures of participating beneficiaries in the absence of the Demonstration. Practices were required to meet stringent quality standards and ensure that financial targets were met.
- In Year 2, CMS modified the shared savings methodology to improve the comparability between the demonstration and matched comparison beneficiaries.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- All 14 of the originally participating primary care practices were in urban areas. Seven were in Health Professional Shortage Areas and/or Medically Underserved Areas.
- Nine sites continued to participate in the original extension periods.
- As of January 2023, there was just one participating site involved in the Independence at Home Demonstration.

**Evaluation (most recent):** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Full report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/independence-at-home>

## [Maryland All-Payer Model](#)

**Aliases:** None

**Stage:** Closed; Maryland now operating [Total Cost of Care Model \(TCOC\)](#)

### **Summary**

Established as a joint effort between CMS and the state of Maryland, the all-payer model was a modernization effort of the State's all-payer rate-setting system for hospital services. The model tested the effectiveness of an all-payer system for hospital payments that holds hospitals accountable for the total per-capita cost of care. The goal of the initiative was to reduce costs and improve health outcomes.

Operating under the auspices of an existing 1814(b) Medicaid waiver, originally granted in 1978, Maryland is exempt from the Inpatient Prospective Payment System and the Outpatient Prospective Payment System, allowing the State to establish global payment rates. Under the All-Payer Model, Maryland adopted an approach based on per capita total hospital cost growth. Over five years, Maryland shifted all hospital revenue into global payment models. Improvements in quality of care for Maryland residents are evaluated through both hospital quality and population health measures, including:

- Readmissions – the State was committed to reducing all-cause, all-site hospital readmissions
- Hospital Acquired Conditions – Maryland committed to reaching an annual aggregate reduction of 6.89 percent in 3M's 65 potentially preventable conditions over a five-year period, for a total cumulative reduction of 30 percent.
- Population Health – Maryland submitted annual performance measure improvement reports.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

All Maryland hospitals were brought into the all-payer model, including the 10 rural hospitals. The state does not have any CAHs.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- January 1, 2014, Maryland launched the all-payer modernization effort.
- January 9, 2019 performance period end date.

### **Payment model/funding**

Maryland was required to generate \$330 million in Medicare savings and limit its annual all-payer per capita total hospital cost growth to 3.58 percent over a five-year performance period.

- First annual report found total savings of \$116 million to Medicare, and per capita cost growth rate was held at 1.47%, which is below the national average.
- Total per beneficiary per month (PBPM) expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries declined by \$16.60 more in Maryland than in the comparison group, resulting in an aggregate \$293 million savings to Medicare during the first 2 years of the model.
- Third annual report found that Maryland saved Medicare an aggregate of \$679 million during the first 3 years of the model and this reduced expenditures for hospital services without shifting costs to other parts of the health care system.

### **Rural participation/impact**

All hospitals in the state operated under global budgeting, and all but one rural hospital in TRP remained within 0.5 percent budget corridor. Preliminary findings demonstrated meaningful reductions in utilization, expenditures, or both in all categories of hospital service.

**Evaluation:** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/maryland-all-payer-model>

## Medicare Care Choices Model

**Aliases:** MCCM

**Stage:** No Longer Active

### **Summary**

The Medicare Care Choices Model (MCCM) provided Medicare beneficiaries who qualified for coverage under the Medicare hospice benefit the option to receive hospice like services while continuing to receive curative services. Beneficiaries who were dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid were also included. The goal of the MCCM was to determine whether access to this type of service would improve quality of care, patient quality of life and family satisfaction, and offer new payment systems for the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

### **Eligibility and Rural-relevant Requirements**

The program's target population was dual eligible beneficiaries, who were eligible for Medicare or Medicaid hospice benefits. Participation in the model was limited to Medicare beneficiaries with advanced cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Eligible beneficiaries must have had Medicare parts A and B for the preceding 12 months and must not have elected the Medicare or Medicaid hospice benefit within the last 30 days prior to their participation in the MCCM. These beneficiaries must have been living in a traditional home and does not cover institutional care.

### **Timeline/key dates**

CMS originally planned to select at least 30 Medicare-certified hospices to participate in the Model. Due to robust interest, CMS invited over 140 Medicare-certified hospices to participate in the Model and increased the duration of the Model to 5 years.

- Cohort 1 began furnishing MCCM services on January 1, 2016
- Cohort 2 began MCCM services on January 1, 2018
- Beneficiary enrollment continues through June 30, 2020
- June 25, 2020 – Announced that Model extended an additional year, through 2021
- Model concluded for Cohorts 1 and 2 on December 31, 2021.

### **Payment model/funding**

Participating hospices received payment under the MCCM through the standard Medicare claims process. Hospices were paid a per-beneficiary-per-month (PBPM) fee that was dependent on the number of calendar days that services were provided under the model. Hospices were paid \$400 PBPM if services were provided under the model for 15 or more calendar days per month, and \$200 PBPM if services were provided under the model for fewer than 15 calendar days per month.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- 141 Medicare-certified hospices from both urban and rural geographic areas initially participated in the model. 37 withdrew from participation by the end of 2017. There were 43 hospices active in 2019 for Cohort 1 and 42 active for Cohort 2.
- 7,263 Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in MCCM, all qualifying for hospice. Lengths of enrollment varied widely, with a median of about 2 months. About 89% of enrollees died before the model ended.
- MCCM reduced Medicare expenditures and use of acute care services. Enrollees had 26 percent fewer inpatient hospital admissions and 12 percent fewer outpatient emergency department visits and observation stays than beneficiaries in the comparison group. Further, net expenditures decreased by \$7,604 per MCCM enrollee (13%).
- MCCM enrollees were more likely to receive better quality of end-of-life care in the period between enrollment and death. For example, deceased MCCM enrollees were less likely than comparison beneficiaries to receive an aggressive life-prolonging treatment in the last 30 days of life (61% versus 76%).

**Evaluation (most recent):** [At-a-glance 2 pager](#), [Full Report](#)

**Website/contact Info:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/medicare-care-choices>



## Medicaid Incentives for the Prevention of Chronic Diseases Model (MIPCD)

**Aliases:** MIPCD program

**Stage:** No Longer Active

**Summary:** The Affordable Care Act established the Medicaid Incentives for Prevention of Chronic Disease Model (MIPCD) program. It tested the effectiveness of providing incentives to encourage healthy behaviors directly to Medicaid beneficiaries of all ages who participated in MIPCD prevention programs. State initiatives used relevant evidence-based research and resources and made the program widely available and easily accessible. State initiatives addressed either tobacco cessation, controlling weight, lowering cholesterol, lowering blood pressure, preventing or controlling diabetes, or a combination of these goals.

### **Eligibility and Rural-relevant Requirements**

Any single State Medicaid Agency was eligible as long as the state committed to operating the program for at least three years, conducted a state-level evaluation, and fulfilled reporting requirements specified by the legislation and CMS.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- MIPCD applications were due on May 2, 2011.
- Participating states received their grants on September 11, 2011.
- Program ended December 31, 2016.

### **Funding**

Each participating state was awarded a 5-year grant to implement, conduct, and evaluate its MIPCD program. The original funding amount was \$100 million over 5 years. Participating Medicaid enrollees earned incentive payments through December 31, 2015. 100% reimbursement was provided through grant funding for incentives and services that would only be available through the MIPCD program.

### **Rural participation/impact**

Ten states (California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin) were recipients of the grant awards. All ten states successfully implemented incentive programs. During the MIPCD program, participants used more preventive services but there was not a significant change in total, inpatient, or ED Medicaid expenditures associated with receiving financial incentives. Montana, Nevada, and California specifically targeted participants in rural or remote locations. Montana's diabetes program used telehealth to reach participants living in rural areas. Nevada also utilized telehealth to reach participants in rural locations. California partnered with its Indian and Rural Health Office to provide program services to Native American clinic patients.

The health outcomes were somewhat favorable. Compared to the control group, incentivized participants had greater reductions in weight, and HbA1c and blood pressure levels; more minutes of physical activity; improvements in self-reported health status; and greater likelihood of reporting a smoking cessation quit attempt or having ceased smoking.

- About three-quarters of survey respondents strongly agreed that they were happy with the incentives overall and most strongly agreed that the incentives were fair (73 percent) and that they liked getting incentives for taking good care of their health (78 percent).
- Because chronic diseases develop slowly and our evaluation only lasted 5 years, we were not able to directly measure whether the MIPCD programs prevented chronic diseases. However, we can infer whether long-term effects on chronic diseases are possible based on the short-term health outcomes (e.g., smoking cessation, weight loss) reported in State evaluation reports.

**Evaluation:** [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/mipcd>

## [Medicare Shared Savings Program \(MSSP\): Program Summary Prior to July 2019](#)

**Aliases:** MSSP, Shared Savings Program, ACOs (note: several ACO models were part of MSSP), MSSP ACO

*Note: CMS made substantial programmatic changes to the MSSP program in 2019. This archived program summary includes details about the MSSP program prior to that time. A current MSSP program description is [here](#).*

### **Summary**

The Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) was established by the ACA and was a key component of Medicare delivery system reform initiatives. MSSP facilitated coordination and cooperation among providers to improve the quality of care for Medicare FFS beneficiaries and reduce unnecessary costs. Eligible providers, hospitals, and suppliers could participate in MSSP by creating or participating in an ACO. Participation in an ACO was voluntary.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Eligible providers and suppliers must have formed a Medicare ACO, and the ACO must have applied to CMS.
- To be accepted, ACOs must have had at least 5,000 attributed Medicare FFS patients, meet all other eligibility and program requirements, and agree to participate in the program for at least 3 years.

**Timeline/key dates:** MSSP ACOs began in 2012. There was an annual application cycle that resulted in 3-year contract cycles. ACOs were allowed to participate in two-contract cycles (6 years) before taking on risk. As of 2019, all new ACO contracts fall under the new program guidelines, but ACOs that were under contract prior to 2019 had the option to continue under their existing agreement through the end of their original 3-year contract period.

### **Payment model/funding**

- CMS and ACOs establish budget targets for the total health spending of attributed ACO FFS Medicare beneficiaries. CMS continues to make payments on a fee-for-service basis. At the end of the year, the actual and target spending were reconciled. If actual spending was less than the target and above the minimum savings rate, *and* if the ACO had performed adequately on access and quality metrics, the ACO and CMS shared the difference.
- ACOs entered a three-year agreement period under three tracks:
  - **Track One:** one-sided shared savings model, 50 percent of savings, no shared loss.
  - **Track Two:** two-sided shared savings/shared losses model, 60 percent split of savings, limit on the amount of losses to be shared in phases in over 3 years starting at 5 percent in year 1; 7.5 percent in year 2; and 10 percent in year 3 and any subsequent year.
  - **Track Three:** two-sided shared savings/shared loss model, 75 percent split of savings, loss sharing limit is 15 percent. In return for greater risk, it allowed for prospective beneficiary assignment, waiver of the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 3-day rule, and potential flexibility around telehealth requirements for billing and reimbursement.
- **Track One Plus** was also offered for a limited time, which gave participants an option that included some of the flexibility of Track Three but limited potential downside risk.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- RHCs, FQHCs, and CAHs are eligible to participate in ACOs.
- The following findings are based on activity through 2018:
  - Medicare ACOs operated in 60.3 percent of all non-metropolitan counties.
  - Non-metropolitan provider participation in ACOs increased considerably since 2013, especially in the South, West, and Northeast census regions.
  - No non-metropolitan ACOs participated in models that included downside risk.
  - 1,210 Rural Health Clinics and 421 Critical Access Hospitals were participating in ACOs.

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/sharedsavingsprogram>

## [The Million Hearts® Cardiovascular Disease \(CVD\) Risk Reduction Model](#)

**Aliases:** Million Hearts®

**Stage:** No Longer Active

### **Summary**

The Million Hearts® Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Reduction Model was a randomized controlled trial that sought to bridge a gap in cardiovascular care by providing targeted incentives for health care practitioners to engage in beneficiary CVD risk calculation and population-level risk management. The Model used data-driven, widely accepted predictive modeling approaches to generate individualized risk scores, and mitigation plans for eligible Medicare FFS beneficiaries. The model used a randomized controlled design to identify successful prevention and population health interventions for CVD implemented within the following framework for the intervention group:

- Universal risk stratification of all Medicare eligible beneficiaries who met the cardiovascular disease risk factor inclusion criteria.
- Evidenced-based risk modification that used shared decision making between beneficiaries and care teams.
- Prevention and population health management strategies based on beneficiary risk stratification.
- Reporting of continuous risk calculator variables and CVD 10-year risk score through a Data Registry (QCDR) that was provided as part of the model test.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- The types of providers participating in the model included but were not limited to general/family medicine, internal medicine, geriatric medicine, multi-specialty, nephrology, or cardiovascular care.
- The types of practices participating in the model include, but were not limited to, private practices, community health centers and other community-based clinics, academic/university health centers, hospital-owned physician practices, and hospital/physician organizations.
- Participating practices were randomly assigned to be part of a control group or intervention group.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- The CVD Risk Reduction Model took place over 5 years, from January 2017 to December 2021.

### **Payment model/funding**

The control group had a one-time payment of \$20/beneficiary to off-set costs of data collection and submission while the intervention group had two payments:

- **Cardiovascular Disease Risk Stratification payment:** participants received a one-time \$10 per-beneficiary payment for each eligible beneficiary that was assessed for CVD risk.
- **Cardiovascular Care Management (CVD CM) payment:** ongoing monthly CVD CM payments were available for beneficiaries that were categorized as high-risk in the initial risk assessment and for whom data elements have been reported. In the first year of the model, participants received a monthly \$10 CVD CM payment for each high-risk FFS. For years 2–5 of the model, participants received up to a \$10/month CVD CM payment for those beneficiaries identified as high risk, contingent on the participant’s performance in CVD risk reduction of the high-risk beneficiaries reflected in the longitudinal treatment benefit tool.

### **Current rural participation/impact**

No specific rural focus. However, with over 500 participating organizations in all but one state (SD), rural providers were participating in the model. Key findings include:

- Over five years, the model reduced the incidence of first-time heart attacks and strokes by 3 to 4 percent, preventing one or more events per 400 high- and medium-risk beneficiaries enrolled, and reduced the all-cause death rate.
- The model improved CVD risk factors, such as blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and decreased CVD risk scores for high-risk beneficiaries within one year of enrollment.

**Evaluation (most recent):** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/million-hearts-cvdrmm>

## Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice

**Aliases:** State-based infrastructure may have used different names, (e.g., in MN called the Health Care Home Model)

**Stage:** No longer active

### **Summary**

The Multi-payer Advanced Primary Care Practice demonstration evaluated whether advanced primary care practice reduced unjustified utilization and expenditures, improved the safety, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of health care in participating states: ME, MI, MN, NY, NC, PA, RI, VT. Each state coordinated with Medicaid and private payers for involvement. The purpose of this project was to:

1. Decrease variation in utilization and expenditures, particularly that variation that was not justified,
2. Condense variation in utilization and expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries,
3. Enhance the safety, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of care,
4. Increase patient autonomy in decision making, and
5. Increase the availability and delivery of evidence-based care in historically underserved areas.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Practices must have met medical home guidelines to participate; states identified and enrolled practices.

### **Timeline/Key Dates**

- Vermont, New York, and Rhode Island began June 1, 2011.
- North Carolina and Michigan began October 1, 2011.
- Maine, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania began January 1, 2012.

Initial demonstration was slated to end in 2014. CMS offered an extension through 2016 to states where some of the payment was distributed to community-based organizations that could not bill independently under the Chronic Care Management (CCM) codes that took effect in January 2015. Five states continued to participate under that extension (ME, MI, NY, RI, VT) through 2016.

### **Payment model/funding**

- Under the demonstration, states paid participating practices additional amounts for transforming their practices into medical homes and for providing services that are not otherwise covered under Medicare.
- Paid a monthly care management fee for beneficiaries who received care from Advanced Primary Care practice (APC), intended to cover care coordination, enhanced access, education, and other services.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- All states had rural practice participation, ranging from 3 percent in MI to 68 percent in NC.
- Participating rural practices were able to sustainably transform to a PCMH as long as they were given the resources, technical assistance, aligned incentives and expectations across payers, and payment for a critical mass of their patients.
- Not all patients were eligible for care management due to a lack of all-payer participation.
- Medicare expenditures varied greatly between states, with some states saving money and others seeing greater expenditures than comparison practices.
- Analyses indicate MAPCP did not show a statistically significant impact on rural populations consistently across all states. North Carolina, which primarily served rural areas, had the lowest access score.
- Among rural Medicare beneficiaries, ER visits not leading to a hospitalization increased by 3,969 visits among Blueprint for Health beneficiaries compared to rural beneficiaries in non-PCMH practices.

**Evaluation:** [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/multi-payer-advanced-primary-care-practice>

## [Next Generation ACO \(NGACO\) Model](#)

**Aliases:** NGACO, Next Gen ACO

**Stage:** No longer active

### **Summary**

Next Generation ACO (NGACO) aimed to encourage experienced ACOs to assume higher levels of financial risk and rewards than were available under other [MSSP](#) and the [Pioneer ACO Model](#). Provider participation in ACOs was purely voluntary, and participating patients saw no change in their Medicare benefits and kept their freedom to see any Medicare provider. The model allowed these provider groups to assume higher levels of financial risk and reward than were available under their previous ACO model. The goal was to test whether strong incentives coupled with patient engagement and case management support tools improved outcomes and increased savings over traditional fee-for-service reimbursement. The Model was associated with larger spending reductions for beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions and those with prior hospitalizations.

### **Eligibility and rural-relevant requirements**

- Participation was open to previous participants of MSSP and Pioneer, along with other qualifying organizations.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- Launched in January 2016 with 18 ACOs, 41 ACOs currently participating
- Originally scheduled to end in 2020, was extended through 2021

### **Payment model/funding**

- Participating ACOs assumed 80 or 100 percent upside and downside risk.
- ACOs selected a payment mechanism on an annual basis from the following options:
  - FFS
  - FFS plus a Per-Beneficiary Per-Month (PBPM) infrastructure payment
  - Population-Based Payment (same as [Pioneer Model](#))
  - All Inclusive Population-Based Payments (AIPBP) a capitation style mechanism called All Inclusive Population-Based Payments (AIPBP), which functioned by estimating total annual care expenditures and paid the ACO per-beneficiary/per-month payment
- If the projected trend was substantially different from the experienced trend, CMS would adjust the payment to shield participants against external price shifts.
- A variety of benefit enhancements were available for beneficiaries including:
  - Post Discharge Home Visits
  - Care Management Home visits
  - Telemedicine
  - Skilled Nursing Facility Three-Day Rule Waiver
  - Part-B cost sharing (allows waiver of co-pay and deductible for specific services)
  - Gift Card incentives for chronic care management

### **Rural participation/impact**

- Regional efficiency trend adjustments ensured participating providers received adequate compensation for services provided in regions that were experiencing major payment changes beyond their control.
- No specific rural focus. However, ACOs with a rural presence were among participants.
- The NGACO Model reduced gross, but not net Medicare Parts A and B spending for its aligned beneficiaries.
- Spending reductions grew larger in almost every year, reflecting NGACOs' improvements in infrastructure and clinical processes, exit by poorer-performing NGACOs, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Evaluation (most recent):** [At a glance 2-pager](#), [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/next-generation-aco-model>

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INACTIVE PROGRAM ARCHIVE - UPDATED 01/2024

## Part D Enhanced Medication Therapy Management Model

**Aliases:** Enhanced MTM Model

**Stage:** No Longer Active

### **Summary**

The Part D Enhanced Medication Therapy Management (Enhanced MTM) model tested whether providing Part D sponsors with additional payment incentives and allowing for regulatory flexibilities would improve therapeutic outcomes and reduce net Medicare expenditures. Payment incentives included a prospective payment for more extensive MTM interventions outside of the plan's annual Part D bid and an increased direct premium subsidy for plans that successfully reduce fee-for-service expenditures and fulfill quality reporting requirements. Additional regulatory flexibility was intended to allow for more individualized and risk-stratified interventions. Beneficiary enrollment across participating sponsors' Enhanced MTM PBPs remained stable at about 1.9 million through the first three Model Years and decreased to about 1.7 million in Model Year 4.

### **Eligibility and Rural-relevant Requirements**

To participate in the Enhanced MTM model, a plan had to be an individual market standalone basic plan, had a minimum enrollment of 2,000, had existed as a basic plan for at least three years prior to the first year of the model test, and not be under sanction by CMS or other law enforcement entities.

### **Timeline/key dates**

- The Enhanced MTM five-year performance period began January 1, 2017, and concluded December 31, 2021.
- Participants for the model were chosen in August 2016.

### **Payment model/funding**

CMS offered participating plans a per-member-per-month prospective payment to provide funding for enhanced items and services, improved system linkages, and other pharmacy, prescriber, or beneficiary incentives.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- There were six Part D sponsors participating in the MTM program: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Jacksonville, FL; Blue Cross and Blue Shield Northern Plains Alliance, Eagan, MN; CVS Health, Woonsocket, RI; Humana, Louisville, KY; UnitedHealthcare, Minneapolis, MN; and WellCare Prescription Insurance, Tampa Bay, FL. Part D sponsors were responsible for designing the eligibility requirements for beneficiaries to participate in the MTM program, as well as specific intervention activities. No specific rural focus was included, though Model Participants included highly rural states in their covered regions.
- Eleven out of 22 participating plans were eligible to receive the performance-based payment because their medical spending was reduced by 2 percent or more.
- Seven participating plans showed reductions in medical spending, but the reductions were less than 2 percent and therefore the plans are ineligible to receive the performance-based payment.
- Four plans showed increases in spending and were therefore ineligible to receive the performance-based payment. Estimated Enrollment across all participating plans in 2017 was 1.7 million beneficiaries.
- There were no statistically significant impacts on Medicare Parts A and B expenditures for the overall enrollee population in Model-participating plans.

**Evaluation (most recent):** [At-a-glance 2-pager](#), [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/enhancedmtm>

## Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Model

**Aliases:** Pioneer Accountable Care Organization

**Stage:** No Longer Active

### **Summary**

The Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (Pioneer ACO) model was designed for health care organizations and providers experienced in coordinating care for patients across care settings. These providers could move more rapidly from a shared savings payment model to a population-based payment model on a track consistent with, but separate from, the MSSP. It worked in coordination with private payers by aligning provider incentives to improve quality and health outcomes for patients and achieve cost savings.

### **Eligibility and Rural-Relevant Requirements**

- Organizations were required to be structured as: ACO professionals in group practice arrangements, networks of individual practices of ACO professionals, partnerships, or joint venture arrangements between hospitals and ACO professionals, hospitals employing ACO professionals, or FQHCs.
- Health IT requirement: at least 50 percent of the PCPs in the Pioneer ACO must have met the requirements for Meaningful Use for the receipt of payments from the EHR Incentive Programs.
- CMS prospectively assigned beneficiaries to Pioneer ACOs, which allowed providers to know in advance the beneficiaries for whom they were held accountable.
- ACOs must have had a minimum of 15,000 assigned Medicare FFS beneficiaries, unless they were in a rural area, then the minimum requirement was 5,000.

### **Timeline/Key Dates**

- Performance Years 1 – 3 (2012 – 2014): initial three-year contract period. Performance Year 4 (2015), Performance Year 5 (2016). Model concluded after performance year 5.

### **Payment model/funding**

- Performance years 1 and 2 tested shared savings and losses using a payment arrangement with higher risk and reward, when compared to the MSSP.
- In performance year 3, those Pioneer ACOs who were successful with shared savings could move to a new population-based payment model. This payment was a per member per month (PMPM) prospective payment used to replace the FFS ACO payments. There was also an option for partial population based payment that limited the risk and reward.

### **Rural participation/impact**

- There were nine ACOs participating in the Pioneer ACO Model. None were predominately rural although some participating systems included a small number of rural providers.
- Many ACOs that chose to either exit the model or choose the lower risk options rather than population-based payment, but most still participate in some form of Medicare ACO.
- While the management of utilization and patient visits outside of the ACO was more difficult than anticipated, participating ACOs indicated some improvement in certain measures of patient experience and quality of care.

**Evaluation:** [Final Report](#)

**Website:** <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/pioneer-aco-model>

## Appendix 3 – Commonly Used Acronym List

ACA	Affordable Care Act
ACO	Accountable Care Organization
APM	Alternative Payment Model
CAH	Critical Access Hospital
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CMMI	Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
DRG	Diagnosis Related Group
EHR	Electronic Health Record
ECE	Extraordinary Circumstance Exception
FFS	Fee-for-Service
FQHC	Federally Qualified Health Center
FY	Fiscal Year
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HIT	Health Information Technology
IPPS	Inpatient Prospective Payment System
MSSP	Medicare Shared Savings Program (also known as SSP)
PCP	Primary Care Provider/Physician
PHE	Public Health Emergency
PMPM	Per Member per Month
PBPM	Per Beneficiary Per Month
PY	Performance Year
RHC	Rural Health Clinic
SSP	Medicare Shared Savings Program (also known as MSSP)