Shared Savings Program ACO SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

CMS — Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proposed Policy on Application of Value-based Payment Modifier to ACOs beginning in CY 2017

As noted in last week's Spotlight newsletter, CMS issued a proposed rule on changes to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for calendar year (CY) 2015. In addition to the ACO quality proposals, this rule also contains proposed changes to the Value-based Payment Modifier (VM) including its application, beginning in CY 2017, to all groups and solo practitioners, as identified by Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs), including those who participate in Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs.

The VM provides for differential payment to a physician or group of physicians under the PFS based upon the quality of care furnished compared to cost during a performance period. In CY 2015 and CY 2016, the VM will not be applied to ACO participant TINs. The proposed policies relate to the application of the VM to ACO participant TINs beginning in CY 2017:

- In general, the cost composite for ACO participant TINs that participate in the Shared Savings Program during the payment adjustment period will be classified as "average cost," and their quality composite will be based on the ACO's quality data from the performance period using a quality-tiering methodology.

- Special rules apply for ACO participant TINs leaving/joining an ACO during the payment adjustment period.

The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on July 11, 2014. You may access a copy of the Medicare PFS Proposed Rule **here**. The VM proposals can be found on pages 40492-40516

and the proposals related to Shared Savings Program ACOs can be found on pages 40497-40500. CMS issued a factsheet, accessible **here**, describing the proposed changes to the VM. We encourage ACOs to provide feedback on the proposed policy and payment changes. CMS will accept comments on the proposed rule until 5 p.m. on September 2, 2014. In commenting, please refer to file code CMS-1612-P. You may submit comments in one of the following ways: electronically via **www.regulations.gov**, by regular mail, by express or overnight mail, or by hand or courier. More details on how to submit comments can be found on the first page of the Federal Register.

Now Available: July Claims and Claim Line Feed Files

Based on the data request and preference files we received as of the end of June, Claim and Claims Line Feed (CCLF) files are currently available for eligible ACOs to download from your MFT mailbox. These files will be available in your MFT mailbox for 30 days.

Reminder: CAHPS Survey Vendor Selection

The administration period for the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey of ACOs begins November 13, 2014, and ends February 2, 2015. ACOs have about 8 weeks to sign up for a CAHPS vendor for 2014 reporting. All ACOs must select a CMS approved vendor by September 22, 2014, and inform CMS of this selection.

Schedule Changes for Quality Webinars

We are adjusting our schedule of upcoming quality webinars that were announced in last week's Spotlight newsletter. See the Webinar Announcements section below for these schedule changes, along with reminders of other events.

ACO SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

WEBINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following table reflects changes in upcoming quality events.

Webinar Topic	Date/Time and Comments
2013 Quality Reporting Performance Results	*Postponed* This event will not be held on July 30, 2014; it will be rescheduled to a later date.
2014 Quality Reporting Kickoff and Audit Lessons Learned	*Rescheduled* Audit lessons learned will be the focus of the new August 7, 2014 webinar (described below). *Postponed* 2014 Quality Reporting Kickoff will not be held on August 6, 2014; it will be scheduled to a later date.
New Importance of Complete and Accurate Quality Reporting: 2013 Quality Reporting Audit Results	*Save the date* Thursday August 7, 2014 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) for ACOs

Thursday, July 24, 2014
Audience: All ACOs

During this event we will review the CAHPS survey measures for the 2014 reporting period and the requirement that all ACOs with 2012, 2013, and 2014 agreement start dates select a CMS-approved CAHPS survey vendor for the 2014 reporting period. **This selection must be made by September 22, 2014**.

> **Topic:** CAHPS for ACOs
> **Date:** Thursday, July 24, 2014
> **Time:** 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 pm Eastern Time
>
> There are 2 ways to join the event online and by telephone. Please use only 1 of the 2 options shown below.

Option 1: **To join the online event online and by telephone**
1. Click **here** to join the event online. Or copy and paste the following link into a browser
https://rti-events3.webex.com/rti-events3/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb14b00c1ebb25a056a6c07a6fcafa274.
2. Click "Join Now" and follow the prompt that appears on the screen.

Option 2: **To join the event by telephone only**
US TOLL: 1-650-479-3207
Access code: 991 613 518
Event password: cahps724

*Make-Up Session 1 – CCLF User Group Kick Off

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Audience: CCLF User Group participants

We will cover the same topics that were reviewed during the July 10, 2014 CCLF User Group kick-off event. ACOs will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from CMS and contractor staff, and to collaborate with other ACO contacts. A link to the recording of the July 10 event is accessible through the SSP ACO Portlet (see the SSP ACO Portlet Announcements).

Topic: *Make-up Session 1 – CCLF User Group Kick Off
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2014
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Eastern Time

There are 2 ways to join the event online and by telephone. Please use only 1 of the 2 options shown below.

Option 1: **To register and join the webinar, click on the following link or copy/paste it into your web browser**:

- **http://w.on24.com/r.htm?e=823504&s=1&k=8EFC4B725CFE0114430647F1366FED9E**
- Please Note: Audio for this event will be streamed through your PC speakers or headphones. This is the default option. If you are unable to listen to the audio broadcast stream through a computer connected to the internet, please join the teleconference by telephone using the details below:

Option 2: **To join the event by telephone only**
Toll Call-in Number: 1-857-232-0156
Access Code: 406972

HPMS ACO Marketing Module Live Demo Training for ACOs & Coordinators
Thursday, July 31, 2014
Audience: All ACOs & Coordinators

This webinar will focus on new functionalities of the HPMS ACO Marketing Module, including new Errata Material, ACO Contact Information, Actual Mail Date update, and Reports and Extract updates.

Topic: ACO Marketing Module Demo
Date: Thursday, July 31, 2014
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1 p.m. Eastern Time

There are 2 ways to join the event online and by telephone. Please use only 1 of the 2 options shown below.

Option 1: To join the online event online and by telephone
1. Click **here** to join the online event.
Or copy and paste the following link to a browser:
https://rti-events3.webex.com/rti-events3/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8c46d968828383707d8850fc0106ff2e
2. Click "Join Now."

Option 2: To join the event by telephone only
US TOLL: 1-650-479-3207
Access code: 991 185 281
Event password: hpms731

ACO SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

Save the date Importance of Complete and Accurate Quality Reporting

Thursday, August 7, 2014

Audience: All ACOs

We will provide an overview of the 2013 Quality Measures Validation Audit, and identify important lessons learned relevant to how all 2012, 2013 and 2014 ACOs report data on ACO GPRO measures during the 2014 reporting period. We will inform ACOs on how to successfully, completely and accurately report quality data.

       Topic: 2013 Quality Reporting Audit Results
       Date: Thursday, August 7, 2014
       Time: 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no website announcements this week.

SSP ACO PORTLET ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no Portlet announcements this week.

ACO SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

HAVE YOU HEARD

Contact Information for ACOs

To help you navigate your questions regarding the Shared Savings Program ACO, we have listed below resources we thought may be useful. We encourage you to keep this information readily available, as you may find this resource listing very helpful.

Contact Information	Type of Inquiry
SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov	All program and policy inquiries for Shared Savings Program ACOs.
HPMS@cms.hhs.gov	All technical inquiries related to HPMS that do not involve password resets.
HPMS_access@cms.hhs.gov	All inquiries related to User issues with accessing HPMS.
QualityNet help desk: ***(Please be advised the email address qnetsupport@sdps.org has recently been changed to qnetsupport@hcqis.org. Please update your contact list accordingly.)*** ***qnetsupport@hcqis.org*** Phone: 866-288-8912, TTY: 1-877-715-6222 Fax: 888-329-7377. Hours: Monday – Friday 7 am – 7 pm CT.	All inquiries related to quality reporting, including quality sampling and measures specifications, use of the Web Interface, and IACS accounts.
1-800-562-1963 CMS_IT_Service_Desk@cms.hhs.gov	All inquiries related to password resets for your 4 character CMS User ID.
1-888-734-6433 (select Option 2) TTY/TDD 1-888-734-6563 APOSD@cms.hhs.gov	All technical inquiries related to MFT, CCLFs and the SSP ACO Portlet.