



Shared Savings Program ACO **SPOTLIGHT** NEWSLETTER

June 2014 / ISSUE 24

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Program Announcements

- 2014 CAHPS Survey Vendor Selection Requirement by September 22, 2014
- 2014 ACO GPRO Measures Reference and Training Material
- Shared Savings Program & PQRS Response to Clinical Guideline Updates for 2014 and 2015 Quality Reporting Years
- Now Available: June Claim & Claim Line Feed Files

Webinar Announcements
Website Announcements
Portlet Announcements
Have You Heard

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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 CAHPS Survey Vendor Selection Requirement by September 22, 2014

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. CMS funded the 2012 and 2013 surveys. ACOs are required to authorize a CMS approved survey vendor to administer the 2014 survey on their behalf. All ACOs must select a vendor and notify CMS of this selection.

You can find the current list of approved vendors [here](#) on the ACO CAHPS webpage. Only CMS approved vendors can administer the survey. Contact the approved vendors to get information about their fees and the services they offer.

If your ACO works with a survey vendor that is not on the list of approved vendors, please direct them to the [ACO CAHPS webpage](#) for more information about becoming an approved vendor. We will update the list of newly approved vendors by September.

When your ACO selects a vendor, a representative from your ACO must complete the CAHPS for ACOs Survey Vendor Authorization form and send it to the address provided **by September 22, 2014**. The form will be available in August 2014 on the ACO CAHPS webpage. The representative who completes this form for your ACO will be your CAHPS for ACOs Survey Administrator. The administrator will serve as the main point of contact between CMS and your ACO, should we need to communicate about the survey.

We are planning an ACO CAHPS webinar for ACOs later this summer. More information will be forthcoming in the ACO Spotlight. Please see the [ACO CAHPS webpage](#) for more information about

ACO **SPOTLIGHT** NEWSLETTER

the CAHPS for ACOs and the [AHRQ CAHPS webpage](#) for more information about CAHPS surveys.

2014 ACO GPRO Measures Reference and Training Material

ACOs with 2012, 2013 and 2014 start dates are required to report on ACO GPRO measures for the 2014 quality reporting period (which will occur in early 2015). In preparation for the 2014 quality reporting period, we posted ACO GPRO measures reference material on the [GPRO Web Interface webpage](#).

The following measures documentation is now available:

- Measure specifications and release notes (indicating changes since the 2013 reporting period)
- Supporting documentation and release notes
- Measure flows

In addition, CMS will be making available targeted training presentations covering a number of general topics, including the following:

- 2014 PQRS GPRO and ACO GPRO – [Web Interface and IACS](#)
- 2014 PQRS GPRO and ACO GPRO – Web Interface Measure Specifications and Supporting Documents
- 2014 PQRS GPRO and ACO GPRO – Web Interface Overview
- 2014 PQRS GPRO and ACO GPRO – Web Interface Assignment and Sampling

Note: This list will be updated as presentations become available. These presentations are PDF documents and are not recorded oral presentations. The content of the presentations applies to group practices reporting via the GPRO web interface and ACOs.

We encourage you to check the [GPRO Web Interface webpage](#) periodically for updates on ACO GPRO measures documentation and material for the 2014 reporting period.

We will announce the availability of additional reference material, and training events, related to the 2014 quality reporting period in future issues of the ACO Spotlight, as this information becomes available.

ACO **SPOTLIGHT** NEWSLETTER

Shared Savings Program and PQRS Response to Clinical Guideline Updates for 2014 and 2015 Quality Reporting Years

The Joint National Committee (JNC 8) and the Adult Treatment Panel (ATP 4) clinical guidelines were updated and published in the fourth quarter of 2013 and many clinicians have implemented the updated JNC 8 and ATP 4 clinical guidelines.

CMS is committed to ensuring clinicians provide performance information based on the most current clinical guidelines and is actively working with measure stewards to update the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and Shared Savings Program measures specifications for the 2015 reporting year. CMS will provide additional information as it becomes available.

The 2014 PQRS and Shared Savings Program measures covering low-density lipid control clinical concepts were not updated to match the latest ATP 4 clinical guidelines, and the blood pressure control clinical concepts were not updated to match the latest JNC 8 clinical guidelines. Since the updated clinical guidelines were not published until the last quarter of 2013, CMS and measure stewards did not have adequate time to determine appropriate updates required for all PQRS and Shared Savings Program measures affected by the new guidelines for the 2014 reporting year.

Even though the 2014 measures do not reflect the most current guidelines, CMS still believes measures that represent the clinical concepts of low-density lipid control and blood pressure control are important cross-cutting measures to be maintained within PQRS, Shared Savings Program, and other reporting programs, as they are important indicators of provider quality.

The 2014 measure specifications reflected the recommended scientific clinical guidance at the time of publication. The impact of the updated guidelines to PQRS and Shared Savings Program measures are actively being evaluated by measure stewards in order to make appropriate modifications for the 2015 reporting year.

Should you have additional questions regarding this topic, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk at 1-866-288-8912 or via e-mail at gnetsupport@hcqis.org.

Now Available: June Claim and Claim Line Feed Files

Based on the data request and preference files we received as of the end of May, Claim and Claim 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.

ACO **SPOTLIGHT** NEWSLETTER

WEBINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claims-based and Administrative Measures

This Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Audience – All Shared Savings Program ACOs

This webinar provides an overview of the Risk Standardized All Condition Readmission measure (ACO #8), the Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions Admissions measures (ACO #9 and ACO #10) and the EHR measure (ACO #11), including an overview of the technical specifications for the 2014 reporting period.

Topic: Claims-based and Administrative Measures

Date: June 25, 2014

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time

There are 2 ways to join the meeting. Please only use 1 of the 2 ways shown below:

Option 1: To join the 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=e6ba97339153c33f1ab38265e8d070e48>

2. Click "Join Now."

Option 2: To join the event by telephone only

US TOLL: 1-650-479-3207

Event number: 998 985 584

Event password: cms625

ACO **SPOTLIGHT** NEWSLETTER

Open Mic Q&A

Next Monday, June 30, 2014

Audience – All Shared Savings Program ACOs

This webinar will be an open dialog between Shared Savings Program ACOs and CMS Shared Savings Program staff, where we will answer questions your ACO submits. **Thanks to all those who submitted questions in advance.**

Topic: Open Mic Q&A

Date: June 30, 2014

Time: 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

There are 2 ways to join the meeting. Please only use 1 of the 2 options shown below:

Option 1: To join the event online and by telephone

1. [Click here](https://rti-events3.webex.com/rti-events3/onstage/q.php?MTID=ec95bb7ba149d07339a68ced17e0b1ef7) to join the online event.

Or copy and paste the following link to a browser:

<https://rti-events3.webex.com/rti-events3/onstage/q.php?MTID=ec95bb7ba149d07339a68ced17e0b1ef7>

2. Click "Join Now."

Option 2: To join the event by telephone only

US TOLL: 1-650-479-3207

Event number: 991 081 502

Event password: q&a630

WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no website announcements this week.

SSP ACO PORTLET ANNOUNCEMENTS

SSP ACO Learning System

A summary is now available of the webinar titled, "ACO Experience Developing and Disseminating Internal Cost and Quality Reports to Providers," that took place on April 17, 2014. You can find it along with the other presentation material on the Events Calendar for April 17.

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.
cmshpms_access@cms.hhs.gov	All inquiries related to User issues with accessing HPMS.
QualityNet help desk: gnetsupport@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.