

reside in an area affected by an extreme and uncontrollable circumstance.

(i) For an ACO that is liable for a pro-rated share of losses under § 425.221(b)(2)(ii) or (b)(3)(i), the amount of shared losses determined for the performance year during which the termination becomes effective is adjusted according to this paragraph (i)(2).

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) CMS applies determinations made under the Quality Payment Program with respect to—

(i) Whether an extreme and uncontrollable circumstance has occurred; and

(ii) The affected areas.

(4) CMS has sole discretion to determine the time period during which an extreme and uncontrollable circumstance occurred and the percentage of the ACO's assigned beneficiaries residing in the affected areas.

(j) *January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 performance year.* Shared savings or shared losses for the January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 performance year are calculated as described in § 425.609.

(k) *July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 performance year.* Shared savings or shared losses for the July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 performance year are calculated as described in § 425.609.

[80 FR 32842, June 9, 2015, as amended at 81 FR 38017, June 10, 2016; 82 FR 53370, Nov. 15, 2017; 82 FR 60918, Dec. 26, 2017; 83 FR 60096, Nov. 23, 2018; 83 FR 68079, Dec. 31, 2018; 85 FR 85044, Dec. 28, 2020; 87 FR 70240, Nov. 18, 2022]

EDITORIAL NOTE: At 81 FR 38017, June 10, 2016, in § 425.610, paragraph (a)(2)(ii), the phrase “adjust for changes” was removed, and in its place the phrase “adjust the benchmark for changes” was added, however, the phrase “adjust for changes” does not appear in this paragraph, so the amendment could not be incorporated.

**§ 425.611 Adjustments to Shared Savings Program calculations to address the COVID–19 pandemic.**

(a) *General.* This section describes adjustments CMS makes to Shared Savings Program calculations to address the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic.

(b) *Episodes of care for treatment of COVID–19.* (1) CMS identifies an episode of care for treatment of COVID–19 based on either of the following:

(i) Discharges for inpatient services eligible for the 20 percent adjustment under section 1886(d)(4)(C) of the Act.

(ii) Discharges for acute care inpatient services for treatment of COVID–19 from facilities that are not paid under the inpatient prospective payment system, such as CAHs, when the date of discharge occurs within the Public Health Emergency as defined in § 400.200 of this chapter.

(2) CMS defines the episode of care as starting in the month in which the inpatient stay begins as identified by the admission date, all months during the inpatient stay, and the month following the end of the inpatient stay as indicated by the discharge date.

(c) *Applicability of adjustments.* Notwithstanding any other provision in this part, CMS adjusts the following Shared Savings Program calculations to exclude all Parts A and B fee-for-service payment amounts for a beneficiary's episode of care for treatment of COVID–19 as described in paragraph (b) of this section:

(1) Calculation of Medicare Parts A and B fee-for-service expenditures for an ACO's assigned beneficiaries for all purposes including the following: Establishing, adjusting, updating, and resetting the ACO's historical benchmark and determining performance year expenditures.

(2) Calculation of fee-for-service expenditures for assignable beneficiaries as used in determining county-level fee-for-service expenditures and national Medicare fee-for-service expenditures, including the following calculations:

(i) Determining average county fee-for-service expenditures based on expenditures for the assignable population of beneficiaries in each county in the ACO's regional service area according to §§ 425.601(c), 425.603(e), and 425.654(a) for purposes of calculating the ACO's regional fee-for-service expenditures.

(ii) Determining the 99th percentile of national Medicare fee-for-service expenditures for assignable beneficiaries for purposes of the following:

(A) Truncating assigned beneficiary expenditures used in calculating benchmark expenditures under §§ 425.601(a)(4), 425.602(a)(4), 425.603(c)(4),

and 425.652(a)(4), and performance year expenditures under §§ 425.604(a)(4), 425.605(a)(3), 425.606(a)(4), and 425.610(a)(4).

(B) Truncating expenditures for assignable beneficiaries in each county for purposes of determining county fee-for-service expenditures according to §§ 425.601(c)(3), 425.603(e)(3), and 425.654(a)(3).

(iii) Determining national per capita expenditures for Parts A and B services under the original Medicare fee-for-service program for assignable beneficiaries for purposes of capping the regional adjustment to the ACO's historical benchmark according to §§ 425.601(a)(8)(ii)(C) and 425.656(c)(3), and capping the prior savings adjustment according to § 425.652(a)(8)(iv).

(iv) Determining the flat dollar equivalent of the projected absolute amount of growth in national per capita expenditures for Parts A and B services under the original Medicare fee-for-service program for assignable beneficiaries, for purposes of updating the ACO's historical benchmark according to § 425.602(b)(2).

(v) Determining national growth rates that are used as part of the blended growth rates used to trend forward BY1 and BY2 expenditures to BY3 according to §§ 425.601(a)(5)(ii) and 425.652(a)(5)(ii) and as part of the blended growth rates used to trend the benchmark and update the benchmark according to §§ 425.601(b)(2) and 425.652(b)(2)(i).

(3) Calculation of Medicare Parts A and B fee-for-service revenue of ACO participants for purposes of calculating the ACO's loss recoupment limit under the BASIC track as specified in § 425.605(d).

(4) Calculation of total Medicare Parts A and B fee-for-service revenue of ACO participants and total Medicare Parts A and B fee-for-service expenditures for the ACO's assigned beneficiaries for purposes of identifying whether an ACO is a high revenue ACO or low revenue ACO, as defined under § 425.20, determining an ACO's eligibility for participation options according to § 425.600(d), and determining an ACO's eligibility to receive advance investment payments according to § 425.630.

(5) Calculation or recalculation of the amount of the ACO's repayment mechanism arrangement according to § 425.204(f)(4).

[85 FR 27625, May 8, 2020, as amended at 85 FR 85044, Dec. 28, 2020; 87 FR 70241, Nov. 18, 2022]

#### § 425.612 Waivers of payment rules or other Medicare requirements.

(a) *General.* CMS may waive certain payment rules or other Medicare requirements as determined necessary to carry out the Shared Savings Program under this part.

(1) *SNF 3-day rule.* For performance year 2017 and subsequent performance years, CMS waives the requirement in section 1861(i) of the Act for a 3-day inpatient hospital stay prior to a Medicare-covered post-hospital extended care service for eligible beneficiaries assigned to ACOs participating in a two-sided model and as provided in paragraph (a)(1)(iv) of this section during a grace period for beneficiaries excluded from prospective assignment to an ACO in a two-sided model, who receive otherwise covered post-hospital extended care services furnished by an eligible SNF that has entered into a written agreement to partner with the ACO for purposes of this waiver. Eligible SNFs include providers furnishing SNF services under swing bed agreements. All other provisions of the statute and regulations regarding Medicare Part A post-hospital extended care services continue to apply. ACOs identified under paragraph (a)(1)(vi) of this section may request to use the SNF 3-day rule waiver for performance years beginning on July 1, 2019, and in subsequent years.

(i) ACOs must submit to CMS supplemental application information sufficient to demonstrate the ACO has the capacity to identify and manage beneficiaries who would be either directly admitted to a SNF or admitted to a SNF after an inpatient hospitalization of fewer than 3-days in the form and manner specified by CMS. Application materials include but are not limited to, the following:

(A) An attestation that it has established and will make available to CMS upon request the following narratives