

this section is not made with respect to telehealth services furnished beginning on the effective date of termination as specified in the written notification required under § 425.220.

(d) *Monitoring of telehealth services.* (1) CMS monitors and audits the use of telehealth services by the ACO and its ACO participants and ACO providers/suppliers, in accordance with § 425.316.

(2) CMS reserves the right to take compliance action, up to and including termination of the participation agreement, as specified in §§ 425.216 and 425.218, with respect to an applicable ACO for non-compliance with program requirements, including inappropriate use of telehealth services.

[83 FR 68081, Dec. 31, 2018]

**§§ 425.614–425.629 [Reserved]**

**§ 425.630 Option to receive advance investment payments.**

(a) *Purpose.* Advance investment payments are intended to encourage low-revenue ACOs that are inexperienced with risk to participate in the Shared Savings Program and to provide additional resources to such ACOs in order to support care improvement for underserved beneficiaries.

(b) *Eligibility.* An ACO is eligible to receive advance investment payments as specified in this section if CMS determines that all of the following criteria are met:

(1) The ACO is not a renewing or a re-entering ACO.

(2) The ACO has applied to participate in the Shared Savings Program under any level of the BASIC track's glide path and is eligible to participate in the Shared Savings Program.

(3) The ACO is inexperienced with performance-based risk Medicare ACO initiatives.

(4) The ACO is a low revenue ACO.

(c) *Application procedure.* To obtain a determination regarding whether an ACO may receive advance investment payments, the ACO must submit to CMS complete supplemental information as part of its application to participate in the Shared Savings Program (filed pursuant to § 425.202) in the form and manner and by a deadline specified by CMS.

(d) *Application contents and review.* (1) *General.* An ACO must submit to CMS supplemental application information sufficient for CMS to determine whether the ACO is eligible to receive advance investment payments. In addition, the ACO must submit a proposed spend plan as part of the supplemental application information.

(2) *Spend plan.* The spend plan must:

(i) Describe how the ACO will spend its advance investment payments during the agreement period to build care coordination capabilities (including coordination with community-based organizations, as appropriate), address specific health disparities, and meet other criteria under this section.

(ii) Identify the categories of goods and services that will be purchased with advance investment payment funds (including any allowable uses under paragraph (e) of this section), the dollar amounts to be spent on the various categories, and such other information as may be specified by CMS.

(iii) State that the ACO has established a separate designated account for the deposit and expenditure of all advance investment payments in accordance with paragraph (e)(4) of this section.

(3) *CMS review.* CMS will review the supplemental application information to determine whether an ACO meets the eligibility criteria and other requirements for advance investment payments and will approve or deny the advance investment payment application accordingly. CMS may review an ACO's spend plan at any time and require the ACO to modify its spend plan to comply with the requirements of this paragraph (d) and paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) *Use and management of advance investment payments.* (1) *Allowable uses.* An ACO must use an advance investment payment to improve the quality and efficiency of items and services furnished to beneficiaries by investing in increased staffing, health care infrastructure, and the provision of accountable care for underserved beneficiaries, which may include addressing social determinants of health. Expenditures of advance investment payments must comply with the beneficiary incentive provision at § 425.304, paragraph

(e)(2) of this section, and all other applicable laws and regulations.

(2) *Prohibited uses.* Advance investment payments may not be used for any expense other than allowable uses under paragraph (e)(1) of this section. In the case of an ACO participating in Level E of the BASIC track, the repayment of any shared losses incurred as specified in a written notice in accordance with § 425.605(e)(2).

(3) *Duration for spending payments.* An ACO may spend an advance investment payment over its entire agreement period. An ACO must repay to CMS any unspent funds remaining at the end of the ACO's agreement period.

(4) *Segregation of advance investment payments.* An ACO must segregate advance investment payments from all other revenues by establishing and maintaining a separate account into which all advance investment payments will be deposited immediately and from which all disbursements of such funds are made only for allowable uses in accordance with this paragraph.

(f) *Payment methodology.* An ACO receives two types of advance investment payments: a one-time payment of \$250,000 and quarterly payments calculated pursuant to the methodology defined in paragraph (f)(2) of this section. CMS notifies in writing each ACO of its determination of the amount of advance investment payment. If CMS does not make any advance investment payment, the notice will specify the reason(s) why and inform the ACO of its right to request reconsideration review in accordance with the procedures specified in subpart I of this part.

(1) *Frequency of payments.* An ACO will receive the one-time payment at the beginning of Performance Year 1 of the ACO's agreement period. An ACO will receive quarterly payments each quarter for the first two performance years of the ACO's agreement period. An ACO may receive no more than eight quarterly payments.

(2) *Quarterly payment amount calculation methodology.* CMS does all of the

following in determining the quarterly payment amount prior to the start of the quarter.

(i) Determines the ACO's assigned beneficiary population. The assigned beneficiaries used in determining the quarterly payment amount are the beneficiaries most recently assigned to the ACO under § 425.400(a)(2) (for an ACO under preliminary prospective assignment with retrospective reconciliation) or § 425.400(a)(3) (for an ACO under prospective assignment), based on the certified ACO participant list for the relevant performance year.

(ii) Assigns each beneficiary a risk factors-based score. For each beneficiary in the assigned population identified in paragraph (f)(2)(i) of this section, CMS applies the following requirements in assigning a risk factors-based score:

(A) The risk factors-based score will be set to 100 if the beneficiary is enrolled in the Medicare Part D LIS or is dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

(B) The risk factors-based score will be set to the Area Deprivation Index national percentile rank matched to the beneficiary's mailing address if the beneficiary is not enrolled in the LIS or is not dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and sufficient data is available to match the beneficiary to an Area Deprivation Index national percentile rank.

(C) The risk factors-based score will be set to 50 if the beneficiary is not enrolled in the LIS or is not dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and sufficient data is not available to match the beneficiary to an Area Deprivation Index national percentile rank.

(iii) Determines a beneficiary's payment amount. For each beneficiary in the assigned population identified in paragraph (f)(2)(i) of this section, CMS determines the payment amount that corresponds to the beneficiary's risk factors-based score determined in paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this section. The beneficiary payment amount is as follows:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (f)(2)(iii)

Risk factors-based score	1–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–74	75–84	85–100
Payment amount	\$0	\$20	\$24	\$28	\$32	\$36	\$40	\$45

(iv) Calculates the ACO's quarterly payment amount. The ACO's quarterly payment amount is the sum of the beneficiary payment amounts corresponding to each assigned beneficiary's risk factors-based score, specified in paragraph (f)(2)(iii) of this section, capped at 10,000 beneficiaries. If the ACO has more than 10,000 assigned beneficiaries according to paragraph (f)(2)(i) of this section, CMS will calculate the quarterly payment amount based on the 10,000 assigned beneficiaries with the highest risk factors-based scores determined according to paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this section.

(g) *Recoupment and recovery of advance investment payments, and notice of bankruptcy.* (1) CMS will recoup advance investment payments made to an ACO from any shared savings the ACO earns until CMS has recouped in full the amount of advance investment payments made to the ACO. For both renewing and re-entering ACOs, CMS will carry forward any remaining balance owed to subsequent performance year(s) in which the ACO achieves shared savings, including in any performance year(s) in a subsequent agreement period.

(2) If the amount of shared savings earned by the ACO is revised upward by CMS for any reason, CMS will reduce the redetermined amount of shared savings by the amount of advance investment payments made to the ACO as of the date of the redetermination. If the amount of shared savings earned by the ACO is revised downward by CMS for any reason, the ACO will not receive a refund of any portion of the advance investment payments previously recouped or otherwise repaid.

(3) Except as provided for in paragraphs (g)(4) of this section and § 425.316(e)(3), for each performance year, CMS will not recover an amount of advance investment payments great-

er than the shared savings earned by an ACO in that performance year.

(4) If an ACO terminates its participation agreement during the agreement period in which it received an advance investment payment, the ACO must repay all advance investment payments it received. CMS will provide written notification to the ACO of the amount due and the ACO must pay such amount no later than 90 days after the receipt of such notification.

(5) In the event of bankruptcy—

(i) If an ACO has filed a bankruptcy petition, whether voluntary or involuntary, the ACO must provide written notice of the bankruptcy to CMS and to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the district where the bankruptcy was filed, unless final payment for the agreement period has been made by either CMS or the ACO and all administrative or judicial review proceedings relating to any payments under the Shared Savings Program have been fully and finally resolved.

(ii) The notice of bankruptcy must be sent by certified mail no later than 5 days after the petition has been filed and must contain a copy of the filed bankruptcy petition (including its docket number). The notice to CMS must be addressed to the CMS Office of Financial Management at 7500 Security Boulevard, Mailstop C3-01-24, Baltimore, MD 21244 or such other address as may be specified on the CMS website for purposes of receiving such notices.

(h) *Termination of advance investment payments.* (1) *General.* Except as provided in paragraph (h)(2) of this section, CMS may terminate an ACO's advance investment payments if the ACO—

(i) Fails to comply with the requirements of this section; or

(ii) Meets any of the grounds for ACO termination set forth in § 425.218(b).

(2) *Eligibility sanction.* CMS will terminate an ACO's advance investment

payments in accordance with § 425.316(e) if the ACO no longer meets the eligibility requirements specified in paragraphs (b)(3) and (b)(4) of this section.

(3) *No pre-termination actions.* CMS may immediately terminate an ACO's advance investment payments without taking any of the pre-termination actions set forth in § 425.216.

[87 FR 70242, Nov. 18, 2022]

**§§ 425.631–425.649 [Reserved]**

**§ 425.650 Benchmarking methodology.**

(a) *Scope and purpose.* The methodology by which CMS establishes, adjusts, updates and resets an ACO's historical benchmark is described within this subpart G. The benchmarking methodology for agreement periods beginning before January 1, 2024, is specified in §§ 425.601, 425.602, and 425.603. The benchmarking methodology for agreement periods beginning on or after January 1, 2024, is specified in §§ 425.652 through 425.660.

(b) [Reserved]

[87 FR 70243, Nov. 18, 2022]

**§ 425.652 Establishing, adjusting, and updating the benchmark for agreement periods beginning on January 1, 2024, and in subsequent years.**

(a) *Computing per capita Medicare Part A and Part B benchmark expenditures for an ACO's first agreement period.* For agreement periods beginning on January 1, 2024, and in subsequent years, in computing an ACO's historical benchmark for its first agreement period under the Shared Savings Program, CMS determines the per capita Parts A and B fee-for-service expenditures for beneficiaries that would have been assigned to the ACO in any of the 3 most recent years prior to the start of the agreement period using the ACO participant TINs identified before the start of the agreement period as required under § 425.118(a) and the beneficiary assignment methodology selected by the ACO for the first performance year of the agreement period as required under § 425.226(a)(1). CMS does all of the following:

(1) Calculates the payment amounts included in Parts A and B fee-for-serv-

ice claims using a 3-month claims run out with a completion factor.

(i) This calculation excludes indirect medical education (IME) and disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments, and the supplemental payment for IHS/Tribal hospitals and Puerto Rico hospitals.

(ii) This calculation includes individually beneficiary identifiable final payments made under a demonstration, pilot or time limited program.

(2) Makes separate expenditure calculations for each of the following populations of beneficiaries: ESRD, disabled, aged/dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and aged/non-dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

(3) Adjusts expenditures for changes in severity and case mix using prospective HCC risk scores.

(4) Truncates an assigned beneficiary's total annual Parts A and B fee-for-service per capita expenditures at the 99th percentile of national Medicare fee-for-service expenditures for assignable beneficiaries identified for the 12-month calendar year corresponding to each benchmark year in order to minimize variation from catastrophically large claims.

(5) Trends forward expenditures for each benchmark year (BY1 and BY2) to the third benchmark year (BY3) dollars using a blend of national and regional growth rates.

(i) To trend forward the benchmark, CMS makes separate calculations for expenditure categories for each of the following populations of beneficiaries:

(A) ESRD.

(B) Disabled.

(C) Aged/dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

(D) Aged/non-dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

(ii) National growth rates are computed using CMS Office of the Actuary national Medicare expenditure data for each of the years making up the historical benchmark for assignable beneficiaries identified for the 12-month calendar year corresponding to each benchmark year.

(iii) Regional growth rates are computed using expenditures for the ACO's regional service area for each of the