

**§ 425.212 Changes to program requirements during the agreement period.**

(a) An ACO is subject to all regulatory changes that become effective during the agreement period, with the exception of the following program areas, unless otherwise required by statute:

(1) Eligibility requirements concerning the structure and governance of ACOs.

(2) Calculation of sharing rate.

(b) In those instances where there are changes in law or regulations, the ACO will be required to submit to CMS for review and approval, as a supplement to its original application, an explanation detailing how it will modify its processes to address these changes in law or regulations.

(c) If an ACO does not modify its processes to address a change in law or regulations, it will be placed on a CAP. If the ACO fails to effectuate the necessary modifications while under the CAP, the ACO will be terminated from the Shared Savings Program using the procedures in § 425.218.

(d) An ACO will be permitted to terminate its agreement, in those instances where Shared Savings Program statutory and regulatory standards are established during the agreement period which the ACO believes will impact its ability to continue to participate in the Shared Savings Program.

[76 FR 67973, Nov. 2, 2011, as amended at 80 FR 32838, June 9, 2015]

**§ 425.214 Managing changes to the ACO during the agreement period.**

(a)(1) An ACO must notify CMS within 30 days of any significant change.

(2) An ACO's failure to notify CMS of a significant change does not preclude CMS from determining that the ACO has experienced a significant change.

(3) A "significant change" occurs when an ACO is no longer able to meet the eligibility or program requirements of this part.

(b) Upon becoming aware of a significant change or receiving an ACO's notice of a significant change described in paragraph (b) of this section, CMS reevaluates the ACO's eligibility to continue to participate in the Shared Savings Program and may request additional documentation. CMS may

make a determination that includes one of the following:

(1) The ACO may continue to operate under the new structure.

(2) The ACO structure is so different from the initially approved ACO that it must terminate its participation agreement and submit a new application for participation.

(3) The ACO no longer meets the eligibility criteria for the program and its participation agreement must be terminated.

(4) CMS and the ACO may mutually decide to terminate the participation agreement.

[76 FR 67973, Nov. 2, 2011, as amended at 80 FR 32838, June 9, 2015]

**§ 425.216 Actions prior to termination.**

(a) *Pre-termination actions.* (1) If CMS concludes that termination of an ACO from the Shared Savings Program is warranted, CMS may take one or more of the following actions prior to termination of the ACO from the Shared Savings Program.

(i) Provide a warning notice to the ACO regarding noncompliance with one or more program requirements.

(ii) Request a CAP from the ACO.

(iii) Place the ACO on a special monitoring plan.

(2) Nothing in this part, including the actions set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, negates, diminishes, or otherwise alters the applicability of other laws, rules, or regulations, including, but not limited to, the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12), and the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45 *et seq.*).

(b) *Corrective action plans.* (1) The ACO must submit a CAP for CMS approval by the deadline indicated on the notice of violation.

(i) The CAP must address what actions the ACO will take to ensure that the ACO, ACO participants, ACO providers/suppliers or other individuals or entities performing functions or services related to the ACO's activities or both correct any deficiencies and comply with all applicable Shared Savings Program requirements.

(ii) The ACO's performance will be monitored and evaluated during and after the CAP process.

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(2) CMS may terminate the participation agreement if the ACO fails to submit, obtain approval for, or implement a CAP, or fails to demonstrate improved performance upon completion of the CAP.

[76 FR 67973, Nov. 2, 2011, as amended at 80 FR 32839, June 9, 2015]

## § 425.218 Termination of the participation agreement by CMS.

(a) *General.* CMS may terminate the participation agreement with an ACO when an ACO, the ACO participants, ACO providers/suppliers or other individuals or entities performing functions or services related to ACO activities fail to comply with any of the requirements of the Shared Savings Program under this part.

(b) *Grounds for termination by CMS.* CMS may terminate the participation agreement for reasons including, but not limited to the following:

(1) Non-compliance with eligibility and other requirements described in this part.

(2) The imposition of sanctions or other actions taken against the ACO by an accrediting organization, State, Federal or local government agency leading to inability of the ACO to comply with the requirements under this part.

(3) Violations of any applicable laws, rules, or regulations that are relevant to ACO operations, including, but not limited to, the laws specified at § 425.208(b).

(4) Failure to comply with CMS requests for documentation or other information by the deadline specified by CMS.

(5) Submitting false or fraudulent data or information.

(c) CMS may immediately terminate a participation agreement without taking any of the pre-termination actions set forth in § 425.216.

(d) *Notice of termination by CMS.* CMS notifies an ACO in writing of its decision to terminate the participation agreement.

[76 FR 67973, Nov. 2, 2011, as amended at 80 FR 32839, June 9, 2015; 89 FR 54717, July 1, 2024]

## 42 CFR Ch. IV (10–1–24 Edition)

## § 425.220 Termination of the participation agreement by the ACO.

(a) *Notice of termination.* An ACO must provide at least 30 days advance written notice to CMS and its ACO participants of its decision to terminate the participation agreement and the effective date of its termination.

(b) [Reserved]

[76 FR 67973, Nov. 2, 2011, as amended at 80 FR 32839, June 9, 2015; 83 FR 68064, Dec. 31, 2018]

## § 425.221 Close-out procedures and payment consequences of early termination.

(a) *Close-out procedures.* (1) An ACO whose participation agreement has expired or is terminated by CMS under § 425.218 or by the ACO under § 425.220 must implement close-out procedures including but not limited to the following issues in a form and manner and by a deadline specified by CMS:

(i) Notice to ACO participants of termination.

(ii) Record retention.

(iii) Data sharing.

(iv) Quality reporting.

(v) Beneficiary continuity of care.

(2) ACOs that fail to complete close-out procedures in the form and manner and by the deadline specified by CMS will not be eligible to share in savings.

(b) *Payment consequences of early termination.* (1) *Receipt of shared savings.*

(i) Except as set forth in paragraph (b)(3)(i) of this section, an ACO that terminates its participation agreement under § 425.220 is eligible to receive shared savings for the performance year during which the termination becomes effective only if all of the following conditions are met:

(A) CMS designates or approves an effective date of termination of the last calendar day of the performance year.

(B) The ACO has completed all close-out procedures by the deadline specified by CMS.

(C) The ACO has satisfied the criteria for sharing in savings for the performance year.

(ii) If the participation agreement is terminated at any time by CMS under § 425.218, the ACO is not eligible to receive shared savings for the performance year during which the termination becomes effective.