

into account for purposes of either of the following:

(i) Determining eligibility for benefits or assistance (or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance) under any Federal program or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

(ii) Any Federal or State laws relating to taxation.

(7) *Termination.* CMS may require an ACO to terminate its beneficiary incentive program at any time for either of the following:

(i) Failure to comply with the requirements of this section.

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

[83 FR 68066, Dec. 31, 2018]

§ 425.305 Other program safeguards.

(a) *Screening of ACO applicants.* (1) ACOs, ACO participants, and ACO providers/suppliers are reviewed during the Shared Savings Program application process and periodically thereafter with regard to their program integrity history, including any history of Medicare program exclusions or other sanctions and affiliations with individuals or entities that have a history of program integrity issues. Program integrity history issues include, but are not limited to, a history of Medicare program exclusions or other sanctions, noncompliance with the requirements of the Shared Savings Program, or violations of laws specified at § 425.208(b).

(2) ACOs, ACO participants, or ACO providers/suppliers whose screening reveals a history of program integrity issues or affiliations with individuals or entities that have a history of program integrity issues may be subject to denial of their Shared Savings Program applications or the imposition of additional safeguards or assurances against program integrity risks.

(b) *Prohibition on certain required referrals and cost shifting.* ACOs, ACO participants, and ACO providers/suppliers are prohibited from doing the following:

(1) Conditioning the participation of ACO participants, ACO providers/suppliers, other individuals or entities performing functions or services related to ACO activities in the ACO on referrals of Federal health care program busi-

ness that the ACO, its ACO participants, or ACO providers/suppliers or other individuals or entities performing functions or services related to ACO activities know or should know is being (or would be) provided to beneficiaries who are not assigned to the ACO.

(2) Requiring that beneficiaries be referred only to ACO participants or ACO providers/suppliers within the ACO or to any other provider or supplier, except that the prohibition does not apply to referrals made by employees or contractors who are operating within the scope of their employment or contractual arrangement to the employer or contracting entity, provided that the employees and contractors remain free to make referrals without restriction or limitation if the beneficiary expresses a preference for a different provider, practitioner, or supplier; the beneficiary's insurer determines the provider, practitioner, or supplier; or the referral is not in the beneficiary's best medical interests in the judgment of the referring party.

[83 FR 68067, Dec. 31, 2018, as amended at 89 FR 54717, July 1, 2024]

§ 425.306 Participant agreement and exclusivity of ACO participants.

(a) Each ACO participant must commit to the term of the participation agreement and sign an ACO participant agreement that complies with the requirements of this part.

(b)(1) Except as specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, ACO participants are not required to be exclusive to one Shared Savings Program ACO.

(2) Each ACO participant that submits claims for services used to determine the ACO's assigned population under subpart E of this part must be exclusive to one Shared Savings Program ACO. If, during a benchmark or performance year (including the 3-month claims runout for such benchmark or performance year), an ACO participant that participates in more than one ACO submits claims for services used in assignment under subpart E of this part, then:

(i) CMS will not consider any services billed through the TIN of the ACO participant when performing assignment

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under subpart E of this part for the benchmark or performance year.

(ii) The ACO may be subject to the pre-termination actions set forth in § 425.216, termination under § 425.218, or both.

[80 FR 32840, June 9, 2015, as amended at 82 FR 53369, Nov. 15, 2017]

§ 425.308 Public reporting and transparency.

(a) *ACO public reporting Web page.* Each ACO must create and maintain a dedicated Web page on which it publicly reports the information set forth in paragraph (b) of this section. The ACO must report the address of such Web page to CMS in a form and manner specified by CMS and must notify CMS of changes to the web address in the form and manner specified by CMS.

(b) *Information to be reported.* The ACO must publicly report the following information in a standardized format specified by CMS:

- (1) Name and location.
- (2) Primary contact.
- (3) Organizational information, including all of the following:
 - (i) Identification of ACO participants.
 - (ii) Identification of participants in joint ventures between ACO professionals and hospitals.
 - (iii) Identification of the members of its governing body.
 - (iv) Identification of key clinical and administrative leadership.
 - (v) Identification of associated committees and committee leadership.
 - (vi) Identification of the types of ACO participants or combinations of ACO participants (as listed in § 425.102(a)) that formed the ACO.
- (4) Shared savings and losses information, including the following:
 - (i) Amount of any payment of shared savings received by the ACO or shared losses owed to CMS.
 - (ii) Total proportion of shared savings invested in infrastructure, redesigned care processes and other resources required to support the three-part aim goals of better health for populations, better care for individuals and lower growth in expenditures, including the proportion distributed among ACO participants.

(5) The ACO's performance on all quality measures.

(6) Use of payment rule waivers under § 425.612, if applicable, or telehealth services under § 425.613, if applicable, or both.

(7) Information about a beneficiary incentive program established under § 425.304(c), if applicable, including the following, for each performance year:

- (i) Total number of beneficiaries who received an incentive payment.
- (ii) Total number of incentive payments furnished.
- (iii) HCPCS codes associated with any qualifying service for which an incentive payment was furnished.
- (iv) Total value of all incentive payments furnished.
- (v) Total of each type of incentive payment (for example, check or debit card) furnished.

(8) Information, updated annually about the ACO's use of advance investment payments under § 425.630, for each performance year, including the following:

- (i) The ACO's spend plan.
- (ii) The total amount of any advance investment payments received from CMS.
- (iii) An itemization of how advance investment payments were spent during the year, including expenditure categories, the dollar amounts spent on the various categories, any changes to the spend plan submitted under § 425.630(d), and such other information as may be specified by CMS.

(9) For performance year 2025 and subsequent performance years, the total number of ACO participants, ACO providers/suppliers, and ACO professionals that are MIPS eligible clinicians, Qualifying APM Participants (QPs), or Partial Qualifying APM Participants (Partial QPs) (each as defined at § 414.1305 of this chapter) that earn a MIPS performance category score for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category as set forth in § 425.507 that is comprised of the following—

- (i) The number of ACO participants, ACO providers/suppliers, and ACO professionals that meet the requirements of § 425.507(a) and are not excluded under § 425.507(b) for the applicable performance year; and