



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2014

CONTACT:
Phil Pantano
Pantano & Associates
716-601-4128
phil@pantanoPR.com

New Affordable Care Act tools and payment models deliver \$372 million in savings, improve care

Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs and Pioneer ACO Model show continued quality of care improvements and additional Medicare savings

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today issued quality and financial performance results showing that Medicare Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) have improved patient care and produced hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for the program.

In addition to providing more Americans with access to quality, affordable health care, the Affordable Care Act encourages doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to work together to better coordinate care and keep people healthy rather than treat them when they are sick, which also helps to reduce health care costs. ACOs are one example of the innovative ways to improve care and reduce costs. In an ACO, providers who join these groups become eligible to share savings with Medicare when they deliver that care more efficiently.

ACOs in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) and Pioneer ACO Model generated over \$372 million in total program savings for Medicare ACOs. The encouraging news comes from preliminary quality and financial results from the second year of performance for 23 Pioneer ACOs, and final results from the first year of performance for 220 Shared Savings Program ACOs.

Meanwhile, the ACOs outperformed published benchmarks for quality and patient experience last year and improved significantly on almost all measures of quality and patient experience this year. (Please see the accompanying fact sheet for additional details.)

“We all have a stake in improving the quality of care we receive, while spending our dollars more wisely,” Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell said. “It’s good for businesses, for our middle class, and for our country’s global competitiveness. That’s why at HHS we are committed to partnering across sectors to make progress.”

Catholic Medical Partners – Accountable Care is one of the ACOs eligible to share in savings.

The Catholic Medical Partners ACO, which consists of nearly 700 local physicians and Catholic Health, reduced healthcare expenditures for its attributed patient population by seven percent from the national benchmark, saving more than \$27 million, while also demonstrating high levels of quality in areas including patient safety, care coordination, preventive health, and at-risk populations.

“We are pleased with the results our ACO was able to achieve,” said Dennis R. Horrigan, president and CEO, Catholic Medical Partners. “Everything we do at Catholic Medical Partners and at Catholic Health is focused on improving patient care. Our investments in technology, human capital, and best practice medicine are designed to strengthen the clinical office and enhance coordination of medical care for all patients. Our success in the ACO program demonstrates the vision and commitment of our governing board to transform healthcare in Western New York.”

Since passage of the Affordable Care Act, more than 360 Medicare ACOs have been established in 47 states, serving over 5.6 million Americans with Medicare. Medicare ACOs are groups of providers and suppliers of services that work together to coordinate care for the Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries they serve and achieve program goals.

Additional Resources

Visit the [Medicare Shared Savings Program](#) website to learn more about the program, and for information on ACOs and ACO participants including available financial and quality performance results for ACOs.

HHS Press Release: [New Affordable Care Act tools and payment models deliver \\$372 million in savings, improve care.](#)

Fact Sheet: [Medicare ACOs continue to succeed in improving care, lowering cost growth.](#)

Fact Sheet: [Delivering Better Care at Lower Cost.](#)

Secretary’s Blog: [Getting More Out of Every Dollar: Improving Health Delivery in America.](#)

###