



Catholic Medical Partners®
INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION

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**Catholic Medical Partners to participate as a Medicare
Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organization
*Voluntary, New Care Coordination Program Created to Offer High Quality
Service and Care to Beneficiaries Through Partnership with Medicare***

BUFFALO, NY – CIPA Western New York IPA, Inc., doing business as Catholic Medical Partners, today announced it has been selected to participate in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) Accountable Care Organization (ACO), a multifaceted new program sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Through the Shared Savings Program, Catholic Medical Partners will work with CMS to provide Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries with high quality service and care, while reducing the growth in Medicare expenditures through enhanced care coordination.

“This is a milestone moment in the effort to reform and improve healthcare in Western New York,” said Dennis R. Horrigan, President and CEO, Catholic Medical Partners. “We are excited to have the opportunity to serve our Medicare patient populations as an Accountable Care Organization and to move our community closer to realizing the goals of true healthcare reform – improved quality, improved patient experience and lower cost.”

“The goals of the Accountable Care Organization are aligned with Catholic Health’s work as a High Performing Catholic Healthcare System and with our mission of transforming the delivery of healthcare in Western New York,” added Joe McDonald, President and CEO, Catholic Health.

The Shared Savings Program will reward ACOs that lower the rate of growth in health care costs for Medicare beneficiaries while meeting performance standards on quality of care and putting patients first. ACOs are groups of doctors and other health care providers working together to provide high quality service and care for their patients. Provider participation in an ACO is purely voluntary and Medicare beneficiaries retain their current ability to seek treatment from any provider they wish.

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CMS will use robust quality measures to reward ACOs, including Catholic Medical Partners, for providing Medicare beneficiaries with a positive patient experience and better health outcomes, while also reducing growth in Medicare expenditures for the same patient population.

"Accountable Care Organizations will improve coordination and communication among physicians and other providers which will help improve care and lower costs for Medicare beneficiaries," said Marilyn B. Tavenner, acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. "We are excited to welcome Catholic Medical Partners as a partner with Medicare and look forward to working with them to improve care for Medicare beneficiaries in Western New York."

Under the Shared Savings Program, 27 ACOs have entered into agreements with Medicare to take responsibility for the quality of care furnished to individual beneficiaries in return for the opportunity to share in any savings with the Medicare program for improved care.

The Shared Savings Program was created as part of the Affordable Care Act, the health care reform law of 2010, to better coordinate care for Medicare patients through ACOs. Instead of patients having to navigate the complex health system on their own, these ACOs will work hand-in-hand with patients to ensure patients do not slip through the cracks. ACOs will encourage providers to work more closely together than ever before and offer incentives to providers that better coordinate a patient's care and treat patients across care settings—including doctors' offices, hospitals, and other health care settings. The Shared Savings Program is not a Medicare Advantage plan or an HMO. Beneficiaries with fee-for-service Medicare will still have the right to use any doctor or hospital who accepts Medicare, at any time.

Today's announcement is the culmination of a comprehensive selection process that began in the fall of 2011 with the national release of the Medicare Shared Savings Program application by CMS. Catholic Medical Partners was selected based on rigorous eligibility criteria and program requirements.

A network of more than 900 physicians, Catholic Health and Mount St. Mary's Hospital, Catholic Medical Partners is the largest group of independent practicing physicians in Western New York. Through the development and implementation of clinical integration programs, the organization and its members are focused on improving the efficiency, safety and quality in delivering medical care based on coordination, an educated and involved patient population and the sharing of information and resources that will make a difference in patients' lives. For information, visit www.CatholicMedicalPartners.org.