

**U.S. House and Senate Notification**  
**Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

**To:** Congressional Health Staff

**From:** Amy Hall  
Director, Office of Legislation  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**Subject:** Save the Date: Oct. 5 FTC-CMS-OIG Workshop on ACOs

Please save the date for an October 5, 2010 Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) workshop that will be co-hosted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS Office of Inspector General, and Federal Trade Commission. Preliminary information is the press release below. Additional details will be provided in the Federal Register notice, which we expect to be published within the next 2 weeks. We will forward the notice once published.

If you have questions about this notification, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation at 202-690-8220. Thank you.

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**FTC, HHS Office of Inspector General, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Announce Workshop on Issues Related to Accountable Care Organizations**

**Public Event to be Held at CMS Headquarters in Baltimore on October 5, 2010**

On October 5, 2010, the Federal Trade Commission will co-host a workshop on several issues associated with Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), organizations authorized by the new Affordable Care Act that seek to deliver high-quality and efficient health care services to consumers. Joining the FTC in hosting the event are the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General.

The workshop, which will be held at CMS Headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, is free and open to the public. To facilitate providers' efforts to develop ACOs that will provide high quality, lower-cost care to their patients, the workshop will address and solicit public comments on the legal issues raised by various ACO models being considered by health care providers. Physicians, physician associations, hospitals, health systems, payers, consumers, and other interested parties are invited to participate in the workshop.

The agencies will publish a Federal Register notice shortly that will include a more in-depth explanation of the topics to be covered during the day-long workshop, including the antitrust, physician self-referral, anti-kickback, and civil monetary penalty laws related to ACOs. The notice also will include information about how to register for the workshop.

Anyone interested in submitting comments for inclusion in workshop discussions must do so by September 27, 2010. Instructions on how to submit comments will be provided in the Federal Register notice.

The Federal Trade Commission works for consumers to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices and to provide information to help spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint in English or Spanish, visit the FTC's online complaint assistant or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The FTC enters complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to more than 1,800 civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad. The FTC's Web site provides free information on a variety of consumer topics. <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2010/09/healthcare.shtm>