

Shared Savings Program Participation Options

Applicable to ACOs in agreement periods beginning on July 1, 2019, and in subsequent years

The Medicare Shared Savings Program offers different participation options (tracks) that allow ACOs to assume various levels of risk. The below table summarizes the characteristics of the participation options under the BASIC track and ENHANCED track for agreement periods beginning on July 1, 2019, and in subsequent years.

Table 1. Comparison of BASIC track and ENHANCED track characteristics

Characteristic	BASIC Track's Glide Path				ENHANCED Track (risk/reward)
	Level A & Level B (one-sided model)	Level C (risk/reward)	Level D (risk/reward)	Level E (risk/reward)	
Shared Savings (once MSR met or exceeded)	1 st dollar savings at a rate up to 40% based on quality performance; not to exceed 10% of updated benchmark	1 st dollar savings at a rate of up to 50% based on quality performance, not to exceed 10% of updated benchmark	1 st dollar savings at a rate of up to 50% based on quality performance, not to exceed 10% of updated benchmark	1 st dollar savings at a rate of up to 50% based on quality performance, not to exceed 10% of updated benchmark	1 st dollar savings at a rate of up to 75% based on quality performance, not to exceed 20% of updated benchmark
Shared Losses (once MLR met or exceeded)	N/A	1 st dollar losses at a rate of 30%, not to exceed 2% of ACO participant revenue capped at 1% of updated benchmark	1 st dollar losses at a rate of 30%, not to exceed 4% of ACO participant revenue capped at 2% of updated benchmark	1 st dollar losses at a rate of 30%, not to exceed the percentage of revenue specified in the revenue-based nominal amount standard under the Quality Payment Program capped at 1 percentage point higher than the benchmark nominal risk amount (e.g., 8% of ACO participant revenue in 2019 – 2020), capped at 4% of updated benchmark)	1 st dollar losses at a rate of 1 minus final sharing rate, with minimum shared loss rate of 40% and maximum of 75%, not to exceed 15% of updated benchmark

Comparison of BASIC track and ENHANCED track



Characteristic	BASIC Track's Glide Path				ENHANCED Track (risk/reward)
	Level A & Level B (one-sided model)	Level C (risk/reward)	Level D (risk/reward)	Level E (risk/reward)	
Annual choice of beneficiary assignment methodology?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual election to enter higher risk?	Yes, but new low revenue ACOs may elect an additional year under Level B if they commit to completing the remainder of their agreement under Level E	Yes	No; ACO will automatically transition to Level E at the start of the next performance year, except for July 1, 2019 starters that elect to enter at Level D	No; maximum level of risk / reward under the BASIC track	No; highest level of risk/reward under Shared Savings Program
Advanced APM status under the Quality Payment Program?	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Beneficiary Incentive Program	No	Yes, ACOs may establish an approved program starting July 1, 2019, or in subsequent years	Yes, ACOs may establish an approved program starting July 1, 2019, or in subsequent years	Yes, ACOs may establish an approved program starting July 1, 2019, or in subsequent years	Yes, ACOs may establish an approved program starting July 1, 2019, or in subsequent years
Expanded Telehealth Services	N/A	Yes, available to ACOs electing prospective assignment methodology for performance year 2020, and subsequent years	Yes, available to ACOs electing prospective assignment methodology for performance year 2020, and subsequent years	Yes, available to ACOs electing prospective assignment methodology for performance year 2020, and subsequent years	Yes, available to ACOs electing prospective assignment methodology for performance year 2020, and subsequent years
SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver	N/A	Yes, ACOs may apply to start on July 1, 2019, and in subsequent years	Yes, ACOs may apply to start on July 1, 2019, and in subsequent years	Yes, ACOs may apply to start on July 1, 2019, and in subsequent years	Yes, ACOs may apply to start on July 1, 2019, and in subsequent years