

Shared Savings Program Participation Options for Performance Year 2021

Applicable to ACOs in Agreement Periods Beginning on July 1, 2019, and in Subsequent Years (BASIC or ENHANCED Track ACOs)

The Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) offers different participation options (tracks) that allow Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) to assume various levels of risk. The table below summarizes the characteristics of the participation options under the BASIC track and ENHANCED track.

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)	
Ability to voluntarily elect to maintain current participation level under the BASIC track glide path for Performance Year (PY) 2021?	Yes; ACOs that elect to maintain at Level A or Level B for PY 2021 will automatically transition to Level C or Level D respectively at the start of PY 2022.	Yes; ACOs that elect to maintain at Level C for PY 2021 will automatically transition to Level E at the start of PY 2022.	Yes; ACOs that elect to maintain at Level D for PY 2021 will automatically transition to Level E at the start of PY 2022	No; maximum level of risk / reward under the BASIC track	N/A
Shared Savings (once Minimum Savings Rate (MSR) met or exceeded)	1 st dollar savings at a rate of 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

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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 Losses (once Minimum Loss Rate (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 (QPP) capped at 1 percentage point higher than the benchmark nominal risk amount (e.g., 8% of ACO participant revenue in 2019-2024, 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
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; ACOs 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 Alternative Payment Model (APM) status under the QPP?	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
ACOs may establish an approved Beneficiary Incentive Program (BIP)?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Comparison of BASIC track and ENHANCED track
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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)	
Expanded Telehealth Services are available to ACOs electing prospective assignment methodology for PY 2020 and subsequent years?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ACOs may apply to use Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 3-Day Rule Waiver?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes