

Invitation from CMS: Meet the Author



Derek DeLia—*Statistical Uncertainty in the Medicare Shared Savings Program*

Join us for an opportunity to meet MMRR author and Rutgers University health economist, Derek DeLia, and discuss with him topics related to his **research on how Accountable Care Organizations share savings with Medicare.**

This MMRR Meet the Author online event is presented by CMS' Office of Information Products & Data Analytics.

Date: February 4 – 11, 2013

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has established a Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) to facilitate coordination and cooperation among providers to improve the quality of care for Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) beneficiaries and reduce unnecessary costs. Physician groups, hospitals, and other eligible providers and suppliers may participate in the MSSP by creating or participating in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). The MSSP will reward ACOs that lower their growth in health care costs while meeting performance standards on quality of care and patient care experiences. Participation in an ACO, however, is purely voluntary.

Although rule making for the MSSP has concluded, the final rules allude to the idea that Medicare policy toward ACOs is expected to evolve with the accumulation of experience. Thus, it remains important to assess how well the program is designed to meet its goals and how CMS might position itself to make future refinements. In light of Medicare's influence on reimbursement policies throughout the health sector, this assessment can also be beneficial to the design of ACO policies by private insurers and state Medicaid programs.

As part of an MMRR published study, Derek DeLia, Ph.D. of Rutgers University, and his co-authors, Donald Hoover and Joel C. Cantor, analyzed the role of random fluctuations in year-to-year healthcare spending and suggest that they may play a larger role in savings measurement than previously anticipated. The authors conclude with a discussion of strategies that can be used to anticipate and minimize the role of chance variation in ACO savings measurement.

In this Meet the Author discussion Web forum, **Professor DeLia will respond to your questions** about his findings and their implications for the Medicare Shared Savings Program and for Accountable Care Organizations.

Register

This free, online Meet the Author Web event is intended for a research and policy-oriented audience, but is open to anyone with an interest in the topic. To register and participate, please visit the [Medicare & Medicaid Research Review Web](#) site or click on the Register button above.

To read the original article, download "[Statistical Uncertainty in the Medicare Shared Savings Program](#)" in pdf format.

