

Tip Sheet Providing Resources to Identify Inexperienced ACO Professionals for the Growth Adjustment Policy Proposal

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Summary of Proposed Growth Adjustment Policy

The proposed growth adjustment in the CY 2027 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule ([91 FR 44094 through 44103](#)) is designed to support existing Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and professionals that would like to start an ACO by providing a financial incentive to promote growth in the Shared Savings Program. This proposed upward adjustment to the historical benchmark is designed to reward ACOs for recruiting ACO professionals inexperienced with value-based care arrangements who are also serving beneficiaries new to value-based care. The proposed growth adjustment would apply on a per-beneficiary basis and would be added to the highest of the prior savings adjustment, regional adjustment, or population adjustment for an ACO.

New Shared Savings Program ACO Professionals and “New Growth”

As proposed, the amount of the growth adjustment for an ACO is based on the amount of “new growth” an ACO generates. “New Growth” is defined as the number of beneficiaries (in person years terms) that are new to the Shared Savings Program that are brought into the program by ACO professionals who are inexperienced in shared savings initiatives. Shared savings initiatives for the purpose of determining the proposed growth adjustment include an initiative implemented by CMS, including the Shared Savings Program, the Innovation Center ACO models (as defined at proposed new §425.664(b)(1)(ii)) (for example, [ACO REACH](#), [LEAD](#), etc.), or other initiatives that may be specified by CMS (as defined at proposed new §425.664(b)(1)(ii)).

Resources to Identify Inexperienced ACO Professionals

The following resources may be used to help identify ACO professionals experienced with shared savings initiatives. The Public Use Files (PUFs) from the Shared Savings Program, ACO REACH, Kidney Care Choices, and the Quality Payment Program include health care providers who have participated in shared savings initiatives during the last five performance years. Then, in combination with the [Medicare Fee-For-Service \(FFS\) Public Provider Enrollment File](#) (Medicare-enrolled providers) and the [National Plan and Provider Enumeration System \(NPPES\)](#) (most United States health care providers), ACOs can identify health care providers that do not have experience with shared savings initiatives as inexperienced providers will only have records in the provider files and not have records in the shared savings initiatives PUFs. These are

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health care providers that could potentially generate new growth for ACOs and would help ACOs better understand potential eligibility for the proposed growth adjustment.

Files to Identify Experienced ACO Professionals

Shared Savings Program PUF

Link: <https://data.cms.gov/medicare-shared-savings-program/accountable-care-organization-participants>

The ACO Participants PUF presents overview information by performance year on ACO participants in the Shared Savings Program, including their name, track status, number of years in the program, and contact information of key personnel. **This PUF can be used to identify ACO professionals experienced with shared savings initiatives.**

ACO REACH Participation PUF

Link: <https://data.cms.gov/cms-innovation-center-programs/accountable-care-models/aco-reach-providers>

The ACO REACH Providers PUF details Participant Providers and Preferred Providers in the ACO REACH Model, formerly Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) Model. **This PUF can be used to identify ACO professionals experienced with shared savings initiatives.**

Kidney Care Choices (KCC) PUF

Link: <https://data.cms.gov/cms-innovation-center-programs/disease-episode-based-payment-models/kidney-care-choices-model>

The Kidney Care Choice (KCC) Model dataset identifies kidney care ACOs and individual providers that participated in the KCC Model in 2022. **This PUF can be used to identify ACO professionals experienced with shared savings initiatives.**

Files with Provider Identification and Contact Information

Medicare FFS Public Provider Enrollment File

Link: <https://data.cms.gov/provider-characteristics/medicare-provider-supplier-enrollment/medicare-fee-for-service-public-provider-enrollment>

The Medicare FFS Public Enrollment File can be used to identify any individual provider who is currently participating in Medicare. **The information in this file can be used with the files listed in this tip sheet to identify providers experienced or inexperienced with shared savings initiatives.**

Quality Payment Program (QPP) PUF

Link: <https://data.cms.gov/quality-of-care/quality-payment-program-experience>

The QPP Experience dataset provides performance information related to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for each performance year, providing information if the clinician participated in an Alternative Payment Model. **This PUF can be used to identify providers experienced and inexperienced with shared savings initiatives.**

Medicare Physician & Other Practitioners – by Provider

Link: <https://data.cms.gov/provider-summary-by-type-of-service/medicare-physician-other-practitioners/medicare-physician-other-practitioners-by-provider>

The Medicare Physician & Other Practitioners by Provider dataset provides information on use, payments, submitted charges and beneficiary demographic and health characteristics organized by National Provider Identifier (NPI). **The information in this file can be used with the files listed in this tip sheet to identify providers experienced or inexperienced with shared savings initiatives.** This file can be used as an alternative file to Medicare FFS Public Provider Enrollment File.

NPPES Downloadable File

Link: https://download.cms.gov/nppes/NPI_Files.html

The NPPES is used to create standard unique identifiers for health care providers and health plans. **The NPPES downloadable file contains identifying information for most health care providers and can be used with the files listed in this tip sheet to identify providers experienced or inexperienced with shared savings initiatives.** The NPPES includes some providers who are not enrolled in Medicare.