

## Key Dates for the Direct Contracting Model (Global and Professional)

(compared to Shared Savings Program dates for reference)

CMS is publishing the calendar below to provide the timing of key activities associated with the Direct Contracting Model. We are providing this information in response to questions from stakeholders about when additional information regarding the model will be released. The calendar below also includes important dates for the Medicare Shared Savings Program to help inform participation decisions for those applicants interested in both shared savings initiatives. Please note that these dates are subject to change. Refer to the Medicare Shared Savings Program’s [website](#) for information related to that program.

For any questions, please contact the Direct Contracting Model helpdesk at [DPC@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:DPC@cms.hhs.gov).

### Key dates over the next 12 months

|                 | Direct Contracting (Global and Professional)  | Shared Savings Program  |
|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>February</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2/25: Implementation Period (IP) application closes</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>March</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3/31: Performance year 1 (PY1) application opens</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>April</b>    |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4/20: Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) opens (<i>note: this is required to apply to participate starting January 1, 2021</i>)</li> </ul> |
| <b>May</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early May through late June: CMS will publish a series of financial specification papers including additional detail on model benchmarks, adjusted Medicare Advantage (MA) Rate Book, Risk Adjustment, and Reconciliation</li> <li>▪ 5/1: PY1 application closes</li> <li>▪ Late May: CMS will announce IP awards and release the IP Participation Agreement (PA)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5/8: NOIAs are due at 12pm ET</li> <li>▪ 5/14: Applications for Performance Year beginning January 1, 2021 open</li> </ul>               |
| <b>June</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Late June: Deadline for Direct Contracting Entities (DCEs) to sign the IP PA</li> <li>▪ Late June: CMS will publish the final financial specification paper (series started in May)</li> <li>▪ Late June: Deadline for CMS to countersign IP PA</li> <li>▪ Late June: IP Welcome Packets issued to IP DCEs</li> <li>▪ Late June: CMS will publish the adjusted MA Rate Book used for the Direct Contracting Model</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6/11: Applications are due at 12pm ET</li> </ul>   |
| <b>July</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 7/1: IP begins</li> <li>▪ Early July: Preliminary beneficiary alignment data issued to IP DCEs</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 7/20: Request for Information (RFI) 1 due at 12pm ET</li> </ul>  |

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|--|---|--|
| <b>August</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early August: PY1 awards announced</li> <li>▪ Late August: CMS will provide directional benchmarking data to IP and PY1 awardees to help inform participation decisions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 8/24: RFI 2 due at 12pm ET (final opportunity to add ACO participant TINs)</li> </ul>               |
| <b>September</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Late September: PY1 Final provider list due from DCE</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9/22: RFI 3 due at 12pm ET (last opportunity to delete or withdraw ACO participant TINs)</li> </ul> |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>To participate in Direct Contracting, you should notify the Shared Savings Program of intent to withdraw by 9/22.</p> </div> |   |  |
| <b>October</b>   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oct: Final application adjudications</li> </ul>   |
| <b>November</b>  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early Nov: sign ACO participation agreements</li> </ul>   |
| <b>December</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PY1 preliminary benchmarks issued</li> <li>▪ PY1 prospective alignment released</li> <li>▪ 12/31: PY1 PA signing deadline</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>January</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1/1: PY1 begins</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1/1: PY begins</li> </ul>   |

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