

Ambulatory Specialty Model (ASM) Participant Readiness Roadmap

The Participant Readiness Roadmap provides key actions and relevant links to help ASM participants prepare for model launch.

MODEL OVERVIEW



ASM will hold specialists who treat patients with Original Medicare financially accountable for proactively managing chronic conditions. The model will initially focus on low back pain and heart failure, which are two conditions that drive high spending in Original Medicare and offer significant potential for cost savings.

ASM will reward clinicians who:



Prevent worsening of chronic conditions through upstream management and by encouraging lifestyle changes



Improve chronic disease management by encouraging collaboration with primary care providers (PCPs)



Detect risks and signs of chronic conditions early



Enhance patient experience by prioritizing patient-reported outcomes on function



Reduce avoidable hospitalizations and care lacking clear evidence of benefit

ASM will begin on January 1, 2027, and run for five performance years through December 31, 2031. ASM's payment years run from January 1, 2029, through December 31, 2033.

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

1. Confirm Preliminary Model Participation

- Verify that you have been selected as a preliminary participant for 2027 by reviewing the [ASM Participants dataset](#).

2. Update Contact Information

- Update your contact information in the [ASM Participant Contact Information form](#) or contact the [ASM Help Desk](#) for assistance in updating your contact information.
- Monitor your email (including spam or junk mail folders) for updates and future instructions to register for the ASM Participant Portal.

3. Confirm Final Model Participation

- Confirm your selection as a final participant for 2027 by reviewing the final [ASM Participants dataset](#) that CMS intends to release in summer 2026.
- Monitor email for updates.

4. Understand Model Performance Metrics and Requirements

- Review section [III.C.2.d](#) of the Calendar Year 2026 Physician Fee Schedule (CY 2026 PFS) final rule to understand the requirements of the four performance categories: quality, cost, improvement activities, and Promoting Interoperability.
- Review forthcoming webcast and factsheets on model requirements, scoring, and payment.

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PRE-IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

5. Prepare for Data Reporting

- Review the required quality measures for your cohort in [Table B-D4](#) in the CY 2026 PFS final rule and determine which collection type(s) you plan on using to report.
- Review the required Promoting Interoperability measures in [Table B-D6](#) in the CY 2026 PFS final rule to prepare for data reporting.
- Ensure your infrastructure is equipped for reporting and relevant staff in your practice are prepared to implement any workflow or reporting adjustments.

6. Collaborate with Partners

- Identify potential collaborators, including PCPs, to achieve shared goals in cost and quality, and align with improvement activity requirements.
- Formalize partnerships with collaborators through collaborative care arrangements that meet requirements described in sections [III.C.2.d.\(4\)](#) and [III.C.2.k.\(2\)](#) of the CY 2026 PFS final rule.

7. Prepare for Model Success

- Identify key staff and leaders who will support the model.
- Align with leadership on preparations needed to achieve or exceed model expectations.

8. Review ASM Resources

- [Webpage](#)
- [Infographic](#) and [Overview Factsheet](#)
- [CY 2026 PFS final rule](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

WHAT'S NEXT



CMS plans to provide additional resources to preliminary ASM participants throughout 2026, including a webcast recording that offers an overview of the model.



CMS plans to release the list of final participants for the 2027 performance year in the summer of 2026 on the [ASM Participants data site](#).



CMS plans to share additional information on how participants can request and access beneficiary-identifiable data later in 2026.

CMS welcomes feedback on ways that we can better support participants.

If you have any questions or requests, please reach out to the model team at

AmbulatorySpecialtyModel@cms.hhs.gov.