

Medicare Shared Savings Program (M-SSP) ACOs

Part III of a Series on ACOs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has established the Medicare Shared Savings Program (M-SSP) to facilitate coordination and cooperation among providers that seek to improve the quality of care for Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) beneficiaries and, at the same time, reduce costs. Eligible providers, hospitals, and suppliers may participate in the M-SSP by creating or participating in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO).

M-SSP is designed to improve on the quality of care & health outcomes of Medicare beneficiaries by:

- Promoting accountability for the care of Medicare FFS beneficiaries
- Requiring coordinated care for all services provided under Medicare FFS
- Encouraging investment in infrastructure and redesigned care processes

M-SSP ACOs that decrease their growth in health care costs while meeting quality of care performance standards and putting patients first may share in the savings achieved. To find the latest news and updates about M-SSP and its related initiatives, please visit this website:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/sharedsavingsprogram/News.html>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

The Affordable Care Act established a new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation that will test innovative care and service delivery models. **The Center will also evaluate the Advance Payment ACO Model. This model provides additional support to physician-owned and rural providers participating in the M-SSP in the form of additional start-up resources to build the necessary infrastructure, such as hiring new staff or improving information technology systems.** For more information, please see: <http://innovation.cms.gov/>

So far, we know little about how the ACO model accommodates the unique challenges of RHCs. For this reason, researchers at the University of Central Florida's College of Health and Public Affairs recently initiated an NIH-funded study to analyze the performance and outcomes of RHCs in ACOs. The research team welcomes the participation of RHC personnel throughout the project. For more information on the "RHCs in ACOs" study, please contact Dr. Judith Ortiz at the Rural Health Research Group at (407) 823-6145 or via email: Judith.Ortiz@ucf.edu.

Matt Bagwell, M.P.A.

Graduate Research Assistant
University of Central Florida
Matt.Bagwell@ucf.edu

Judith Ortiz, Ph.D.

Research Associate Professor
University of Central Florida
Judith.Ortiz@ucf.edu

Cindy Toledo

Research Assistant
University of Central Florida
ctoledo@knights.ucf.edu