

Improving Accountable Care Organization (ACO) beneficiary assignment

ISSUE: The Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) rules for ACOs continue to evolve. This paper discusses two aspects of those rules that affect beneficiary assignment; the use of Tax Identification Numbers (TINs) and National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) to define ACOs and the use of prospective and retrospective assignment.

KEY POINTS In 2019 the MSSP program moved toward two-sided risk, but also modified benchmarking and shared savings rules including allowing an annual choice for each ACO of prospective or retrospective assignment. The rules also continued defining an ACOs as a collection of TINs. We look at how those two aspects of the rules affect assignment of beneficiaries to ACOs and how they could be improved.

ACTION: Commissioners will review and discuss the material.