

Addressing Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) vulnerabilities

ISSUE: The Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) continues to evolve. This paper discusses two vulnerabilities that may threaten program savings; possible mismatches between baseline spending and performance year spending for MSSP ACOs and possible patient selection.

KEY POINTS The MSSP defines ACOs as a collection of taxpayer identification numbers (TINs). This could lead to a possible mismatch between baseline spending for the ACO and performance year spending. We look at how the algorithm for determining baseline spending could be improved. Certain other aspects of the program could lead to patient selection, which in turn, could result in unwarranted shared savings. We consider approaches to address that vulnerability.

ACTION: Commissioners will review and discuss the material and consider a draft recommendation.