

Top Story

2016 MSSP Contract Results Are In: Quality Score Jumps to 97.3%

CMS recently released the MaineHealth ACO's 2016 Medicare Shared Savings Program contract performance results. The results indicated a significant increase in the ACO's annual quality score, a sign that participants' efforts to improve quality are having an impact. The ACO achieved a score of 97.3 percent, up nearly four percent over the ACO's 2015 score, and well above the 2016 average for all ACOs nationally of 94 percent.

"Our success is due in great part to meaningful collaboration between the ACO and the participating systems, practices and providers who deliver exceptional care," says MaineHealth ACO President and CEO Dr. Betsy Johnson. "I want to thank all our clinical partners for working with us so energetically to meet quality goals. Our collective success is reason to celebrate."

The MaineHealth ACO's Medicare Shared Savings Program contract covers the care that ACO participants provide to more than 56,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

CMS also measured the ACO's cost performance under the MSSP contract. In 2016, annual per capita expenditures totaled \$9,715, coming in slightly above a shared-savings benchmark of \$9,393. Since that benchmark was exceeded, ACO participants are not eligible to participate in shared savings for the 2016 performance year.

The ACOs shared savings performance mirrors that of ACOs nationally. Of all 432 ACOs in the Medicare Shared Savings program, only 31 percent achieved shared savings in 2016. The average is even lower among hospital-based ACOs, like the MaineHealth ACO, with only 23 percent achieving shared savings.

"Moving toward a shared savings position in the current and upcoming performance years is a MaineHealth ACO priority," says Betsy Johnson. "The Value Oversight Committee's Cost and Utilization Workgroup has been hard at work for several months mapping a path toward that goal. The Committee recommends stepped-up efforts to reduce avoidable ED admissions among our Medicare population as one key step toward lowering our MSSP contract's annual per capita expenditures."

The ACO's high quality score has positive implications for lower costs in the future, says Dr. Jeff Aalberg, the ACO's Chief Medical Officer. "Healthcare thought leaders like Dr. Glenn Steele and Dr. Don Berwick agree that increases in quality will inevitably lead to decreases in utilization and, by extension, reductions in healthcare spend. By better managing chronic diseases, coordinating care, improving end-of-life care and improving care transitions, our participating providers are leading us to a future of better care and lower cost. That's exactly where we want to go."