

# MSSP: Moving to Downside Risk

Created in 2011, the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) is a value-based payment system that is meant to improve the quality and reduce the cost of care that Medicare beneficiaries receive. It gives providers financial incentives, known as “shared savings,” for achieving certain quality and cost targets.

MSSP led to the creation of Accountable Care Organizations, the entities through which Medicare enters into MSSP contracts with providers. Over the years, MSSP has introduced different payment “tracks” that encourage ACOs to take on increasing levels of risk and reward.

The MaineHealth ACO participates in Track 1.0, an “upside-risk-only” track that provides financial rewards for achieving targets and no penalties for missing targets. **In 2019, most of the ACO’s providers will move to Track 1.5, which introduces a “downside-risk” financial penalty for missing targets.**

## Continuing in Track 1.0 (upside-risk-only)

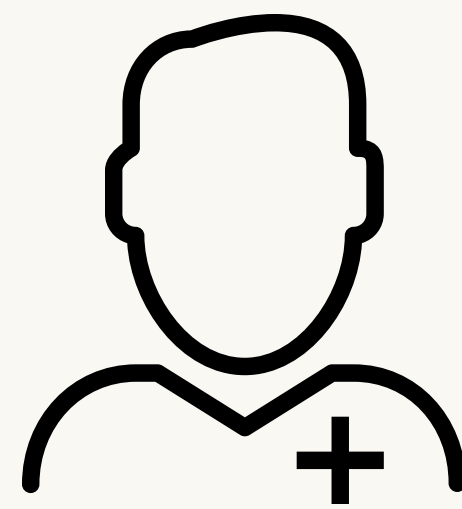
**Who:** About 500 providers in private practice or employed by St. Mary’s Health System

**When:** A new three-year Track 1.0 contract will begin January 1, 2019

**Why:** Resource levels and support infrastructure suggest greater opportunity for success in Track 1.0

**Risks:** Missed opportunity for shared savings if quality targets are not achieved

**Benefits:** Decreased reporting burden for MIPS compared to non-MSSP providers, access to data



## Moving to Track 1.5 (downside-risk)

**Who:** About 1,000 providers employed by MaineHealth and York Hospital\*

**When:** A three-year Track 1.5 contract will begin January 1, 2019

**Why:** Opportunity and readiness for improved quality and cost outcomes outweighs risk of financial loss

**Risks:** ACO receives financial penalty if cost targets are missed

**Benefits:** 5% lump sum bonus, no longer required to report data for MIPS, access to data