Hospitals Advancing Accountable Care

Hospitals and health systems invest significant time and resources into the provision of accountable care – and it shows. Accountable care organizations (ACOs) with hospital participation have saved millions of dollars for patients and for Medicare while delivering high quality, coordinated care.

Hospital-affiliated ACOs Have Made Significant Strides*

In 2017, hospitals participated in 297 of the 472 ACOs in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP).

Hospital-affiliated ACOs participating in the MSSP achieved approximately $174 million in net savings to Medicare, out of $313 million total net savings, in 2017.

Hospital-affiliated MSSP ACOs achieved a quality score of 92.3% in 2017.

Hospital-affiliated ACO spending was about $690 million less than their 2017 benchmarks.

Hospitals and health systems invest substantial time and funds to establish and maintain ACOs, including through:

- Network development and management, such as creating and maintaining post-acute care (PAC) networks and relationships between hospitals and PAC providers;
- Robust care coordination, utilization management and quality improvement, including through use of health coaches, patient navigators and others;
- Clinical information systems, such as an interoperable EHR to link ACO providers, and other infrastructure investments;
- Data analysis and reporting systems to better understand care patterns; and many more.

Total investment (approx.):

- Start up: $5 - $12 million, depending on size
- Ongoing (annual): $6.3 - $14.1 million

Hospitals and health systems participate in ACOs in many ways:

- Initiate and lead an ACO with a physician group
- Participate in an ACO
- Contract with a physician group for health system services and resources without appearing on the physician group ACO’s participant list
- Participate in another manner

To learn more, visit www.aha.org/accountable-care-organizations-acos

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