MEDICARE
SHARED SAVINGS
PROGRAM

Beneficiary Assignment Estimates in ACO-MS

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This tip sheet provides information on the beneficiary assignment estimates displayed for each submitted ACO participant and for the ACO in total. These estimates can be found in several different locations in the ACO Management System (ACO-MS) that vary during the application and change request cycle. All beneficiary assignment information should be considered **estimates** that are subject to change.

Important Information about Beneficiary Assignment Estimates

- CMS produces ACO-level beneficiary assignment estimates that are displayed in ACO-MS by utilizing a methodology that generates ACO participant TIN-level assignment estimates. For more information about this methodology and its limitations, refer to the *Application Reference Manual* located on the Application Toolkit webpage.
- Estimates are provided for the performance year (PY) as well as the three prior years labeled as benchmark years (BYs).
  - The BY estimates apply to the BYs for an ACO beginning a new agreement period on January 1st of the upcoming performance year.
  - For currently participating ACOs, the BY assignment estimates for the three prior years are informational only.
- Estimates are provided for both the prospective assignment and preliminary prospective assignment with retrospective reconciliation (retrospective) assignment methodologies. More information on these methodologies can be found in the *Shared Savings and Losses and Assignment Methodology Specifications*, located on the Program Guidance & Specifications webpage.
- To ensure compliance with CMS small cell suppression policy, if an ACO or ACO participant TIN is estimated to have between one and 10 assigned beneficiaries, the assignment estimate for that ACO or ACO participant TIN is subject to suppression (displayed as "*"). Assignment estimates for ACO participant TINs that are subject to suppression **are not** included in calculations of ACO-level values displayed in ACO-MS.
- Estimates may change depending on ACO actions, including the submission and/or withdrawal of ACO participant change requests as well as the deletion of ACO participants.

Beneficiary Assignment Estimates Available at the Time of Change Request Submission

During Phase 1 of the application and change request submission period, an ACO will create or manage its ACO Participant List by submitting change requests. For additional information on adding ACO participants, refer to the *Adding ACO Participants & SNF Affiliates in ACO-MS* tip sheet. The following are two ways to view beneficiary estimates available to ACOs during Phase 1 of the application and change request submission period:

ACO Participant Change Request Submission Page

1. In a change request, enter the TIN, PTAN, and/or legal business name to add or renew a proposed ACO participant TIN to the ACO Participant List, then click the "Verify Information" button.
2. After clicking the "Verify Information" button on an ACO Participant change request, ACOs will receive beneficiary assignment estimate information for the ACO participant immediately. This data will only be returned if the ACO Participant passes the PECOS Check.
3. This data will display in a table at the bottom of the change request.
4. To view this information after the change requests are submitted, select the Change Request tab on the left side menu of ACO-MS to view the beneficiary assignment estimates found in the change request cart.

Beneficiary Assignment Estimates View in the ACO Participants Subtab

1. Log into ACO-MS; navigate to the My ACOs tab on the left side menu, and select the applicable ACO.
2. From the ACO Participants subtab, click the Beneficiary Assignment Estimates view, which will display a table that includes the following for each ACO participant: TIN, TIN Legal Business Name, TIN status, and beneficiary assignment estimates.
3. The table also totals the estimates of assigned beneficiaries across the proposed ACO Participant List for the upcoming performance year.

Additional Beneficiary Assignment Estimates Available at Phase 1 RFI-1 and RFI-2

Application Cycle Subtab & *Participation Options Report*

Unlike the two views above, which are available immediately during this phase, ACOs can only view beneficiary assignment estimates in the Application Cycle subtab (of the My ACOs tab) and *Participation Options Report* when estimates become available at the first request for information (RFI-1) of Phase 1 and then upon update at Phase 1 RFI-2 and Phase 1

Dispositions. For more information please refer to the *How to Use the Application Subtab and Participation Options Report* tip sheet.

Additionally, ACO-level beneficiary assignment estimates included in the Application Cycle subtab and the *Participation Options Report* are distinct from the views found in the ACO Participant change request and ACO Participants subtab. Deficiencies associated with individual change requests (if applicable) are factored into the totals for the beneficiary assignment estimates in the Application Cycle Subtab and *Participation Options Report*. Consider the following example:

- An ACO included three ACO participants on the proposed ACO Participant List. Each of the three ACO participants had an estimated 2,000 assigned beneficiaries. The change request for one of the three ACO participants had an overlap deficiency.
    - The beneficiary assignment estimates for the ACO participant with the overlap deficiency **would be included** in the estimate viewable in the Beneficiary Assignment Estimates view of the ACO Participants subtab but **would not be included** in the Application Cycle subtab or the *Participation Options Report.*
    - Therefore, the Beneficiary Assignment Estimates view would display 6,000 estimated assigned beneficiaries, while the Application Cycle subtab and the *Participation Options Report* would display 4,000, excluding the ACO participant with the overlap deficiency.
- If the overlap is resolved at a later date, the ACO's beneficiary estimate would be updated to reflect the additional beneficiaries associated with the previously overlapping ACO participant).

Beneficiary Assignment Estimate Tab *(Participation Options Report)*

This tab includes indicators for whether each ACO participant is included in the ACO-level assignment estimate (based on enrollment, legal business name, Medicare exclusions, and overlap deficiencies).

1. Log into ACO-MS and navigate to the Beneficiary Assignment Estimate tab to view assignment estimates at the ACO participant TIN level and the ACO level.
2. The tab will include indicators for whether deficiencies are associated with the change request for the ACO participant (if applicable) as well as a corresponding indicator for whether the ACO participant is included in the ACO-level assignment estimate.

ACO Summary Tab *(Participation Options Report)*

- Log into ACO-MS and navigate to the ACO Summary tab to view the ACO-level estimates from the Beneficiary Assignment Estimate tab of the *Participation Options Report.*

Application Cycle Subtab (My ACOs page)

- Log into ACO-MS and navigate to the Application Cycle subtab available on your ACO's page to view ACO-level estimates.

For more information, refer to the *How to Use the Application Cycle Subtab and Participation Options Report in ACO-MS* tip sheet.

Beneficiary Assignment Estimates Available after Phase 1 Dispositions

The beneficiary assignment estimates in both the ACO Participant change request submission page and the ACO Participants subtab **will no longer be visible at the time that Phase 1 Dispositions are issued.** After that time, ACOs should refer to their *Participation Options Report*.

Questions?
If you have any questions about ACO-MS or require technical assistance, click the SSP Helpdesk icon (located within the ACO-MS banner) or email SharedSavingsProgram@cms.hhs.gov.