

# Accountable Care Organizations: A Brief History

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ASN Kidney Week

Philadelphia, PA

# March 2011: Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- “Triple Aim”:
  - Better care for individuals
  - Better health for populations
  - Slower growth in costs
- ACA Section 3022 Establishes Medicare Shared Savings Program, including potential for ACOs

## March 2011: ACA on ACOs

- Assume responsibility for care of a “clearly defined population” of Medicare beneficiaries
- Strive to achieve specific quality standards
- Share in savings if they reduce the cost of care

# June 2011: Proposed ACO Rule

- 60-day comment period
- More than 1,300 comments submitted
- ASN ACO Task Force reviewed proposed rule and submitted comments

# June 2011: Proposed ACO Rule

- Key ASN comments:
  - CKD, dialysis, and transplant patients have unique needs and vulnerabilities
  - Some quality measures not appropriate for kidney patients
  - Duplication of care for dialysis patients?
  - ACOs may offer significant benefits for CKD patients

# October 2011: ACO Final Rule

<b>Proposed Rule</b>	<b>Final Rule</b>
Retrospective patient assignment to ACO	Preliminary prospective patient assignment
65 quality measures in five domains	33 quality measures in four domains
Pay for full and accurate reporting in year one	Pay for reporting only in year one
50% of PCPs must become EHR “meaningful users” by year two	No EHR requirements
Shared savings beginning at savings of 2%	Shared savings from first dollar saved

# October 2011: ACO Final Rule

(Providers Eligible for Starting ACOs)

- Physicians and other professionals in group practice arrangements (ACO professionals)
- Networks of individual practices
- Partnerships or joint venture arrangements between hospitals and ACO professionals
- Hospitals employing ACO professionals
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Rural Health Clinics

# October 2011: ACO Final Rule

- 33 quality measures in four domains:
  1. Patient/caregiver experience
  2. Care coordination/patient safety
  3. Preventive health
  4. At-risk population:
    - Diabetes
    - Hypertension
    - Ischemic vascular access disease
    - Heart failure
    - Coronary artery disease
- Does not include kidney disease or oncology

# 2012

**January 1** ACO Program established

**April 1** First wave of ACO agreements start

**July 1** Second wave of ACO agreements start