Accountable Care Organizations: A Brief History

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Saturday, November 12, 2011
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

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