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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Next Generation ACO Model

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Building upon experience from the [Pioneer ACO Model \(/initiatives/Pioneer-ACO-Model/index.html\)](#) and the [Medicare Shared Savings Program \(http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/sharedsavingsprogram/index.html?redirect=/sharedsavingsprogram/\)](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/sharedsavingsprogram/index.html?redirect=/sharedsavingsprogram/) (Shared Savings Program), the Next Generation ACO Model offers a new opportunity in accountable care—one that sets predictable financial targets, enables providers and beneficiaries greater opportunities to coordinate care, and aims to attain the highest quality standards of care.

Select anywhere on the map below to view the interactive version



Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[\(/initiatives/map/index.html#model=next-generation-aco-model\)](/initiatives/map/index.html#model=next-generation-aco-model)

There are 18 ACOs participating in the Next Generation ACO Model. ([List \(https://data.cms.gov/dataset/Next-Generation-ACO-Models/tn2j-igcf\)](https://data.cms.gov/dataset/Next-Generation-ACO-Models/tn2j-igcf))

To view an interactive map of this Model, visit the [Where Innovation is Happening \(https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/map/index.html#model=next-generation-aco-model\)](https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/map/index.html#model=next-generation-aco-model) page.

▸ [Read more](#)

If you are a Medicare beneficiary seeking information about this model, please review the section below titled [I'm a Medicare Beneficiary, so what does this mean for me?](#)

Background

Medicare ACOs are comprised of groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers and suppliers who come together voluntarily to provide coordinated, high-quality care at lower costs to their Original Medicare patients. ACOs are patient-centered organizations where the patient and providers are true partners in care decisions. Medicare beneficiaries will have better control over their health care,

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and providers will have better information about their patients' medical history and better relationships with patients' other providers. Provider participation in ACOs is purely voluntary, and participating patients will see no change in their Original Medicare benefits and will keep their freedom to see any Medicare provider. When an ACO succeeds in both delivering high-quality care and spending health care dollars more wisely, it will share in the savings it achieves for the Medicare program.

Initiative Details

The Next Generation ACO Model is an initiative for ACOs that are experienced in coordinating care for populations of patients. It will allow these provider groups to assume higher levels of financial risk and reward than are available under the current Pioneer Model and Shared Savings Program (MSSP). The goal of the Model is to test whether strong financial incentives for ACOs, coupled with tools to support better patient engagement and care management, can improve health outcomes and lower expenditures for Original Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries.

Included in the Next Generation ACO Model are strong patient protections to ensure that patients have access to and receive high-quality care. Like other Medicare ACO initiatives, this Model will be evaluated on its ability to deliver better care for individuals, better health for populations, and lower growth in expenditures. This is in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services' "Better, Smarter, Healthier" approach to improving our nation's health care and setting clear, measurable goals and a timeline to move the Medicare program – and the health care system at large – toward paying providers based on the quality rather than the quantity of care they provide to patients. In addition, CMS will publicly report the performance of the Next Generation Pioneer ACOs on quality metrics, including patient experience ratings, on its website.

The Model will consist of three initial performance years and two optional one-year extensions. Specific eligibility criteria are outlined in the [Request for Applications \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenacorfa.pdf\)](#).

How To Apply

The 2017 application materials, including the Letter of Intent (LOI) and Request for Applications (RFA) in PDF format are found in the 2017 Application Materials and Information section below. **Deadline for LOI submission has been extended to May 20, 2016.** The application deadline is May 25, 2016. Please note that this is the final round of applications for the Next Generation ACO Model and ACOs selected from this final round cannot defer their participation.

Questions regarding the Next Generation ACO Model can be directed to NextGenerationACOModel@cms.hhs.gov (<mailto:NextGenerationACOModel@cms.hhs.gov>).

2017 Application Materials and Information

[2017 Letter of Intent \(LOI\) \(http://innovationgov.force.com/vloi\)](http://innovationgov.force.com/vloi) & <http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/External-Link-Disclaimer.html>

[2017 Application Portal \(http://innovationgov.force.com/vrfa\)](http://innovationgov.force.com/vrfa) & <http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/External-Link-Disclaimer.html>

[Letter of Intent \(LOI\) Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-loiappfaqs.pdf\)](#)

[Letter of Intent \(LOI\) checklist \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-loichecklist.pdf\)](#)

[2017 Request for Applications \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenacorfa.pdf\)](#)

[Open Door Forums: 2017 Application Overview \(March 8, 2016\) \(/resources/nextgenaco-2017appoverview.html\)](#)

[Open Door Forum: 2017 Letter of Intent Overview \(March 22, 2016\) \(/resources/nextgenaco-2017loioverview.html\)](#)

[Open Door Forum: 2017 Application Overview \(March 29, 2016\) \(/resources/nextgenaco-2017application.html\)](#)

[Open Door Forum: 2017 Financial Methodology \(April 5, 2016\) \(/resources/nextgenaco-2017financial.html\)](#)

[Open Door Forum: 2017 Participating Provider List \(April 12, 2016\) \(/resources/nextgenaco-2017providerlist.html\)](#)

[Open Door Forum: 2017 Benefit Enhancements \(April 19, 2016\) \(/resources/nextgenaco-2017benefit.html\)](#)

[Open Door Forum: 2017 Population Based Payments and All Inclusive Population Based Payments \(April 26, 2016\) \(/resources/nextgenaco-2017popbasedpayments.html\)](#)

Additional Information

[Next Generation ACO Model Benchmark Methodology for Performance Years 1-3 \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-methodology.pdf\)](#)

[Fact Sheet \(https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-01-11.html\)](https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-01-11.html)

[Press Release \(http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2016/01/11/new-hospitals-and-health-care-providers-join-successful-cutting-edge-federal-initiative.html\)](http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2016/01/11/new-hospitals-and-health-care-providers-join-successful-cutting-edge-federal-initiative.html)

[Financial & Alignment Frequently Asked Questions \(/initiatives/Next-Generation-ACO-Model/nextgenaco-fnclalgnfaqs.html\)](#)

[Next Generation ACO & Pioneer ACO Comparison Table \(PDF\) \(/Files/fact-sheet/nextgenaco-comparefactsheet.pdf\)](#)

Benefit Enhancements

Benefit enhancements are waivers of certain Medicare service rules (i.e., telehealth, post-discharge home visits, and the three-day skilled nursing facility rule), and initiatives intended to assist Next Generation Accountable Care Organizations in improving care for and engagement of their beneficiaries.

[Telehealth Expansion Waiver \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-telehealthwaiver.pdf\)](#)

[Post-Discharge Home Visit Waiver \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-pdhomevisitwaiver.pdf\)](#)

[Three-Day Skilled Nursing Facility Waiver \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/pioneeraco-snfwaiver.pdf\)](#)

[Voluntary Alignment Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-volalignmentfaq.pdf\)](#)

I'm a Medicare Beneficiary, so what does this mean for me?

[What is the Telehealth waiver? \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-telehealthwaiver.pdf\)](#)

[What is the Post-Discharge Home Visit waiver? \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-pdhomevisitwaiver.pdf\)](#)

[Voluntary Alignment Frequently Asked Questions for beneficiaries & caregivers \(PDF\) \(/Files/x/nextgenaco-voluntaryalignmentfaqbeneficiary.pdf\)](#)

2015 Open Door Forums

[First Open Door Forum \(/resources/nextgenaco-odf1.html\) | Slides \(PDF\)](#)

[\(/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf1slides.pdf\) | Audio \(ZIP - 106MB\)](#)

[\(http://downloads.cms.gov/files/cmml/NextGenACOModel-ODF1-recording_3_23_15.zip\)](http://downloads.cms.gov/files/cmml/NextGenACOModel-ODF1-recording_3_23_15.zip)

[Second Open Door Forum \(/resources/nextgenaco-odf2.html\) | Slides \(PDF\)](#)

[\(/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf2slides.pdf\) | Audio \(WMV - 113MB\)](#)

<http://downloads.cms.gov/media/innovations/Next-Generation-ACO-Model-20150324-1959-1.wmv>

[Third Open Door Forum \(/resources/nextgenaco-odf3.html\)](/resources/nextgenaco-odf3.html) | [Slides \(PDF\)](#)
[\(/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf3slides.pdf\)](/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf3slides.pdf) | [Audio \(WMV - 74.8MB\)](#)

<http://downloads.cms.gov/media/innovations/NextGenerationACOModel-201503311959-1.wmv>

[Fourth Open Door Forum \(/resources/nextgenaco-odf4.html\)](/resources/nextgenaco-odf4.html) | [Slides \(PDF\)](#)
[\(/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf4slides.pdf\)](/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf4slides.pdf) | [Audio \(WMV - 104MB\)](#)

<http://downloads.cms.gov/media/innovations/NextGenACOModel-ODF4audio.wmv>

[Fifth Open Door Forum \(/resources/nextgenaco-odf5.html\)](/resources/nextgenaco-odf5.html) | [Slides \(PDF\)](#)
[\(/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf5slides.pdf\)](/Files/slides/nextgenaco-odf5slides.pdf) | [Audio \(WMV - 121MB\)](#)

<http://downloads.cms.gov/media/innovations/NextGenerationACOModel-201504141959-1.wmv>

An asterisk (*) indicates a required field.

WAS THIS PAGE HELPFUL? * Yes No

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Model Summary

Stage: Accepting Letters of Intent,
Accepting Applications

Number of Participants: 18

Category: Accountable Care

Authority: Section 3021 of the Affordable
Care Act

Milestones & Updates

May 11, 2016

Updated: Materials from 4/26 population
based payments open door forum posted

Apr 29, 2016

Announced: Voluntary alignment
frequently asked question documents
posted

Apr 21, 2016

Updated: Letter of intent (LOI) deadline
extended to 5/20

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Apr 21, 2016

Updated: Materials from 4/5 Financial Methodology open door forum posted

**Where Health Care
Innovation is
Happening**

[\(/initiatives/map/index.html\)](/initiatives/map/index.html)
See who's working with CMS to implement new payment and service delivery models.

Get the Widget
(/CMMIMapWidget/index.html)

Last updated on: 05/11/2016



CMS.gov

A federal government website managed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244

<http://www.hhs.gov>

CMS & HHS Websites



[Medicare.gov \(http://www.medicare.gov\)](http://www.medicare.gov)

[MyMedicare.gov \(http://MyMedicare.gov\)](http://MyMedicare.gov)

[StopMedicareFraud.gov \(http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov\)](http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov)

[Medicaid.gov \(http://Medicaid.gov\)](http://Medicaid.gov)

[InsureKidsNow.gov \(http://www.insurekidsnow.gov\)](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov)

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[HealthCare.gov \(http://www.HealthCare.gov\)](http://www.HealthCare.gov)

[HHS.gov/Open \(http://www.hhs.gov/open/\)](http://www.hhs.gov/open/)

Tools

[Acronyms \(http://www.cms.gov/apps/acronyms\)](http://www.cms.gov/apps/acronyms)

[Contacts \(http://www.cms.gov/apps/contacts\)](http://www.cms.gov/apps/contacts)

[FAQs \(https://questions.cms.gov/\)](https://questions.cms.gov/)

[Glossary \(http://www.cms.gov/apps/glossary/\)](http://www.cms.gov/apps/glossary/)

[Archive \(http://archive-it.org/collections/2744\)](http://archive-it.org/collections/2744)

Helpful Links

[Web Policies & Important Links \(http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/index.html\)](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/index.html)

[Privacy Policy \(http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/Privacy-Policy.html\)](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/Privacy-Policy.html)

[Plain Language \(http://www.medicare.gov/about-us/plain-writing/plain-writing.html\)](http://www.medicare.gov/about-us/plain-writing/plain-writing.html)

[Freedom of Information Act \(http://www.cms.gov/center/freedom-of-information-act-center.html\)](http://www.cms.gov/center/freedom-of-information-act-center.html)

[No Fear Act \(http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/NoFearAct.html\)](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/NoFearAct.html)

[Nondiscrimination/Accessibility \(http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/CMSNondiscriminationNotice.html\)](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/CMSNondiscriminationNotice.html)

[HHS.gov \(http://www.hhs.gov\)](http://www.hhs.gov)

[Inspector General \(http://oig.hhs.gov\)](http://oig.hhs.gov)

[USA.gov \(http://www.usa.gov\)](http://www.usa.gov)

[Help with file formats & plug-ins \(http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/Help.html\)](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/Help.html)

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