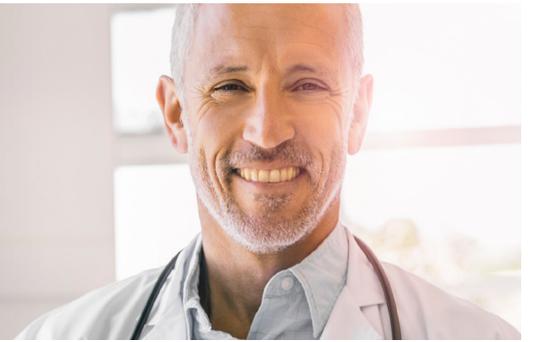


Clinical Integration Educational Series

Success Strategies for Medicare Shared Savings Program Track 1 Accountable Care Organizations



Introduction

As you know, on January 1st, SRQCN began its participation in Track 1 of the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP).

As a reminder, MSSP is a voluntary program for clinicians who provide care to Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries. In MSSP, groups of providers come together to form ACOs. As a participant in the SRQCN MSSP ACO, you will collaborate with other providers to improve quality and coordination of care for your Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries, as well as reduce Medicare Parts A and B spending for those beneficiaries.

MSSP offers clinicians a chance to share in the savings they produce if they reduce spending on Medicare beneficiaries and keep the quality of care high.

Over the past few weeks we've provided an overview of MSSP and what it means to be a MSSP Track 1 ACO participant, and explained how quality of care is measured in MSSP. This week we will share some strategies that you as a participating provider can use to help the SRQCN MSSP ACO achieve savings.

What Can You Do to Help the SRQCN MSSP ACO Provide High Quality Care and Achieve Shared Savings?

1. Focus on preventive rather than reactive care.

Providing consistent preventive care to your patients, rather than just treating sickness when it arises, helps prevent hospitalization and other high-cost care. This includes scheduling each of your patients for their Annual Medicare Wellness Visit and at that time reviewing all of their co-morbidities and capturing these findings during the Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) coding process.

2. Actively manage complex patients.

We advise that you see and provide follow up visits to your Medicare patients frequently enough to prevent and/or manage chronic disease and coordinate patient care across the entire care and care management team.

3. Engage your Medicare patients that are attributed to the SRQCN MSSP ACO.

Particularly if you are a PCP, it is important that you reach out to your preliminarily attributed Medicare beneficiaries so that they understand the benefits of being engaged in their care and maintaining a relationship with their PCP. SRQCN will be sending a letter to some of your Medicare beneficiaries alerting them that their provider is participating in a MSSP ACO, and explaining what that means for them.

4. Actively communicate with the other clinicians who care for your patients.

Providing high-quality, efficient care to patients requires timely communication between the different members of the care team. This includes communication regarding patient diagnosis, treatment, and suggested care management. If you are a specialist, make sure you refer your patients back to their PCP for ongoing care coordination and management.

Communication and care management is especially important for high-risk patients, such as those with frequent ER visits or multiple chronic conditions. SRQCN's care coordinators can work closely with your high risk and rising risk patients to promote better management of their health on an ongoing basis.

5. Refer to high-quality and cost-effective post-acute care providers.

Referring to high-quality, efficient post-acute care providers such as home care and skilled nursing facilities can improve patient outcomes and care coordination, and reduce readmissions. The SRQCN MSSP ACO will provide you with a list of the preferred skilled nursing and home health providers near you.

When sending patients to post-acute facilities, consider what care setting would be the most clinically-appropriate setting in which they could receive their care.

6. Optimize effective and efficient use of diagnostic testing.

Prior to ordering diagnostic tests ask yourself 1) if the test result will affect how you manage the patient, and 2) if the test has already been performed by another clinician or if the results are otherwise available.

These strategies will help the SRQCN MSSP ACO provide the best possible care for patients. In addition, by collaborating with other ACO clinicians to provide high-quality, efficient patient care, you can help SRQCN improve quality, enhance patient care, and achieve savings under MSSP.

For more information on MSSP and prior e-blasts, please visit <http://srqcn.org>. In addition, if you are seeking more details about how MSSP participation will affect your MIPS score and reporting requirements, SRQCN has published a MIPS (Merit-Based Incentive Payment System) Playbook, which outlines the network's MIPS strategy and walks you through the reporting process. For more details please contact your Physician Practice Liaison and/or visit <https://qpp.cms.gov>.