

March 2024 - Issue 19

LTC ACO NEWS



A Message from Our President

As we head into 2024 (on our ninth performance year), LTC ACO is poised for a period unaffected by COVID and the associated public health emergency ("PHE"). This translates to increased safety and extended life opportunities for our beneficiaries, promoting a higher quality of life. Additionally, this signals improved consistency and predictability in both cost and quality structures, allow for more efficient sharing of available savings, if any, to you as a participant in a manner that is both reliable and predictable. Our team places a strong emphasis on predictability and accuracy and has returned to a platform that aligns with these principles.



As discussed in December 2023, 2024 will also provide us an opportunity to closely analyze new populations to care for who reside in care settings other than nursing homes. We will also focus a great deal of attention on accurate and complete capturing of ICD-10 codes. This strategic effort will help us more precisely demonstrate the acuity of the population we serve. By doing so, we intend to ensure that our benchmark is more representative of the associated risks, particularly as we approach the start of 2025, when our new contract period begins. Notably, this will mark the first new contract period since July 2019.

Throughout the year, you will periodically hear from us regarding 2025, in addition to our performance and quality objectives and progress in 2024. This communication is essential because, as previously indicated, we will be entering our third contract period in the Medicare Shared Savings Program ("MSSP"). The shift from one contract period to the next, though a routine part of the program, brings about changes in specific program attributes. This may involve adjustments to the benchmark process or modifications to the quality metrics required for participation, as mandated by CMS.

We remain bullish on the future of LTC ACO and our ability to improve quality and cost efficiencies, which are ultimately reflected in our shared savings. While we eagerly anticipate the final 2023 settlement report, expected to be released by CMS in August 2024, we remain highly optimistic about our performance based on previous reporting. Furthermore, during March/April 2024, we plan to share detailed projections with each of you regarding the plan year.

I want to thank you for your continued participation in LTC ACO and the exceptional care extended to your patient and our beneficiaries. We are highly respectful of the faith you put in us and the collaboration you provide to make this a successful program.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact your partner engagement manager or myself at Jason.Feuerman@ltcac.com.

Best Regards,

Jason Feuerman

Jason Feuerman
President & CEO

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Accurate and Complete ICD-10 Coding for 2024 and Beyond

As our ACO continues to evolve, our strategic focus on successful value-based care partnerships has shifted over time. Two years ago, we prioritized supporting partners in achieving and documenting quality measures sustainably. Building on that, last year, our attention turned to analyzing cost drivers in practices to positively impact outliers, aiming to enhance the patient experience and maximize shared savings.

For the 2024 Plan Year, building upon the foundation laid in the previous year, we are dedicated to ensuring the accuracy of the 2025 benchmark set by CMS. Our focus turns to our practices' risk scoring activities, a crucial aspect under the new 2025 agreement. Unlike the past, we are no longer capped on risk scores at the Aged-Dual Cohort. It is imperative to ensure that practices receive appropriate credit for caring for our medically complex long-term care population. Accurate HCC documentation and coding practices play a vital role in this process:

- ◆ HCCs, driven by ICD-10 coding, effectively portray the complexity of a population's healthcare needs, leading to improved patient outcomes.
- ◆ The more precise portrayal of complexity ensures a more accurate ACO benchmark during contract periods, maximizing the benchmark cap and directly influencing potential shared savings.
- ◆ The coding assignment in PY 2024 will have a direct impact on the 2025 ACO Benchmark.

RISK CALCULATION AND IMPACT ON 2025 BENCHMARK

Under the 2025 Benchmark, which relies on coding from 2024, the Risk Ratio is no longer capped at 3% within eligibility categories but is now capped at the aggregated risk ratio. A small 1% shift in Risk Ratio can translate to a \$309 impact on the Benchmark, underscoring the profound influence of Trend and Risk Ratios. The change in capping rules to the aggregate Risk Ratio signifies a substantial potential upside in Benchmark outcomes, emphasizing the importance of precise documentation and coding for optimal specificity.

REPORTING ICD-10 CODES

When reporting ICD-10 codes, ensure the presence of 'MEAT':

Managed, Evaluated, Addressed/Assessed, or Treated during face-to-face encounters.

Always prioritize coding to the most appropriate specificity, encompassing both direct and indirect conditions. Include status conditions, even if inactive, that impact patient care. Regularly address ICD-10 conditions, ideally on an annual basis, as patients are considered otherwise healthy until codes are submitted on a claim each year.

- ◆ **For additional information and resources, please visit [Clinical Resource Portal](#) on our website (PW: LTCACO).** Navigate to 'HCC and Coding' to access a replay of our 2023 HCC Review Session as well as a useful Common ICD-10 Code Worksheet.

2024 Quality Measures

For the 2024 ACO Performance Year there are 3 CMS quality metrics that must be appropriately documented within the medical record. Performance rates for these metrics directly impact the percentage of savings the ACO receives. LTC ACO will provide regular progress reports throughout the year. Additionally, the ACO's final quality score incorporates extra claims-based and CAHPS measures beyond the listed quality metrics.

A detailed guide on each measure listed below, along with an metric overview can be found on our [Clinical Resource Portal](#) (PW: LTCACO, click '2024 MSSP Quality Measures')

2024 ACO METRICS:

- ◆ Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (>9%)
- ◆ Hypertension: Controlling High Blood Pressure
- ◆ Screening for Depression and Follow-up Plan

New ACO Provider Education Sessions: Catch the replay

Thank you to everyone who joined our New ACO Provider Education Sessions in January! In case you missed us, a replay and a copy of the presentation from our Jan 23rd session is available on our [Clinical Resource Portal](#) (PW: LTCACO, click '2024 General Resources')

LTC ACO IN THE NEWS

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We are thrilled to welcome our new ACO participants for 2024:

- ◆ Lawrence General Community Service, PLLC (New England Community Medical Services)
- ◆ LTHC Solutions, LLC (aka Long-Term Health Care Solutions)
- ◆ Legacy Care ACO, LLC
- ◆ SE Virginia Value Based Care, LLC (MidAtlantic)
- ◆ Tamberly L McCoy, MD PLLC

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"LTC ACO Continues Growth With Five Additional Provider Partners for Performance Year 2024"

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MarketWatch

"LTC ACO Continues Growth With Five Additional Provider Partners for Performance Year 2024"

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McKnight's
Long-Term Care News

"Long-term care groups demand more ACO inclusion, incentives from feds"

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ChesCo
DISCOVER. CONTRIBUTE. CONNECT.

"LTC ACO Expands Network, Paving Way for Improved Long-Term Care"

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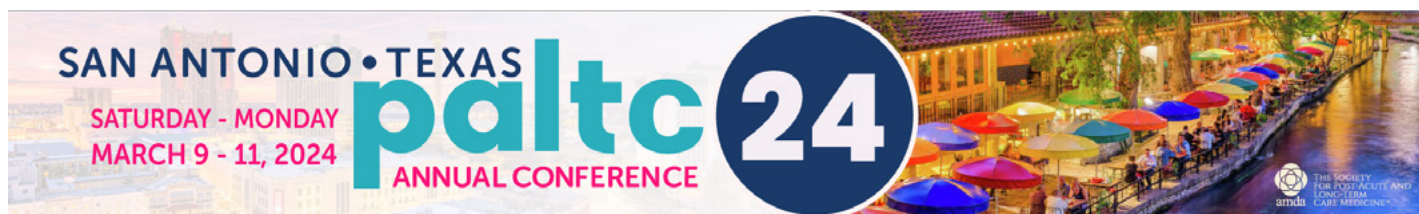
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Booth #312