
Health Reform Oversight Committee

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HealthFirst ACOs Overview

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HealthFirst Overview

HealthFirst is Vermont's Independent Practice Association representing health care practitioners working at physician-owned practices throughout the state.

Key stats:

- 72 Member Practices
- 34 Primary Care Sites
- 86 Primary Care and 73 Specialist Physicians
- Over 250 Practitioners, including 159 MDs/DOs, NPs, PAs and RNs
- Located across 10 counties: Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor

Many HealthFirst physicians participate in ACO Shared Savings and patient-centered medical home programs. Participation in such programs is not a requirement of joining HealthFirst.

HealthFirst Overview

- Corporate Structure:
 - Mutual Benefit Non-profit Corporation
 - Owned by members
- Funding: Member Dues, \$1000 per physician
- Why ACOs?
 - Opportunity to partner in a program that would promise recognition and support for practitioners that provide high-quality and value in health care

Medicare ACO

- Participated from July 2012 – March 2015
- 7,500 attributed lives
- Structure: LLC, Joint Venture
 - 50% owned by HealthFirst
 - 50% owned by Universal American
- Funding: Universal American provided all start-up funding, approximately ~\$750K per year
- Uses: Executive staff, clinical staff, analytics & care mgmt platform, legal, compliance, marketing

Commercial ACO

- Participating from January 2014 – Dec 2016
- 8,200 attributed lives
- Structure: LLC, 100% owned by HealthFirst
- Funding: 2 VHCIP SIM grants totaling \$600,000
- Uses: Exec 0.5 fte, Clinical staff 1.25 fte, Operations 0.5fte, physician stipends, legal & admin
- Shared Savings Distribution Plan:
 - Re-coup current year and next year expenses
 - Remaining split 85% to PCPs, 15% to specialists

Medicaid ACO

- Not currently participating
- Would have had 8,000 – 9,000 attributed lives
- Independent practitioners care for Medicaid patients
 - Some practices, in particular pediatrics, have up to 70% Medicaid patients
- HealthFirst decided not to participate because of high up-front costs and little chance of reward for already-efficient practitioners (per Medicare experience)

ACO Key Areas of Collaboration

- Quality Measure education and collection processes
- Common identification of potential cost-saving initiatives and approach through UCCs
- Care Coordination – admission and ER data from hospitals to community PCPs
- Standards development, financial program elements for in-state Commercial and Medicaid ACOs

Population Health Performance

Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO Quality Results - Accountable Care Coalition of the Green Mountains

Measure Number	Performance Measure	2012 Performance Rate	2013 Performance Rate	2014 Performance Rate	2014 Mean Performance Rate for all ACOs
ACO-1	Getting Timely Care, Appointments, and Information	84.95	81.72	85.40	80.13
ACO-2	How Well Your Doctors Communicate	93.12	93.61	93.06	92.39
ACO-3	Patients' Rating of Doctor	91.89	92.14	91.71	91.58
ACO-4	Access to Specialists	81.84	83.50	82.85	83.97
ACO-5	Health Promotion and Education	56.00	55.16	62.14	58.29
ACO-6	Shared Decision Making	75.98	74.72	77.29	74.60
ACO-7	Health Status/Functional Status	72.08	74.84	73.16	71.10
ACO-8	Risk Standardized, All Condition Readmissions	14.69	14.56	14.63	15.15
ACO-9	ASC Admissions: COPD or Asthma in Older Adults	0.76	0.87	0.61	1.08
ACO-10	ASC Admission: HF	1.57	1.15	1.12	1.19
ACO-11	Percent of PCPs Who Qualified for the EHR Incentive Payment	51.85	75.00	96.88	76.71
ACO-12	Medication Reconciliation	82.35	29.23	92.72	82.61
ACO-13	Falls: Screening for Fall Risk	40.54	12.13	41.82	45.62
ACO-14	Influenza Immunization	53.96	52.64	63.81	57.51
ACO-15	Pneumococcal Vaccination	37.19	52.86	68.15	55.03
ACO-16	Adult Weight Screening and Follow-up	32.28	41.65	60.96	66.75
ACO-17	Tobacco Use Assessment and Cessation Intervention	66.95	64.65	92.48	86.79
ACO-18	Depression Screening	0.51	6.62	50.80	39.27
ACO-19	Colorectal Cancer Screening	21.88	51.42	68.22	56.14
ACO-20	Mammography Screening	64.36	52.58	66.12	61.41
ACO-21	Proportion of Adults who had blood pressure screened in past 2 years	71.94	84.39	39.54	60.24

Population Health Performance (Cont.)

Measure Number	Performance Measure	2012 Performance Rate	2013 Performance Rate	2014 Performance Rate	2014 Mean Performance Rate for all ACOs
Diabetes Composite	Beneficiaries with diabetes who met of all the following criteria:	17.81	1.25	26.53	25.41
ACO-22*	Hemoglobin A1c Control (HbA1c) (<8 percent)	59.86	54.11	78.61	
ACO-23*	Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) (< 100 mg/dL)	46.08	35.16	56.04	
ACO-24*	Blood Pressure (BP) < 140/90	56.53	55.36	67.13	
ACO-25*	Tobacco Non-Use	65.80	8.98	85.94	
ACO-26*	Aspirin Use	85.92	63.92	84.49	
ACO-27	Percent of beneficiaries with diabetes whose HbA1c in poor control (>9 percent)	32.07	36.16	11.68	20.35
ACO-28	Percent of beneficiaries with hypertension whose BP < 140/90	54.74	48.24	63.73	68.02
ACO-29	Percent of beneficiaries with IVD with complete lipid profile and LDL control < 100mg/dl	35.83	32.50	58.12	57.29
ACO-30	Percent of beneficiaries who use Aspirin or other antithrombotic	73.03	52.08	92.18	80.79
ACO-31	Beta-Blocker Therapy for LVSD	94.74	50.00	72.73	82.71
CAD Composite	Percent of beneficiaries with CAD who met all of the following criteria:	48.00	41.73	59.43	66.90
ACO-32*	Drug Therapy for Lowering LDL-Cholesterol	52.79	47.35	67.71	
ACO-33*	(ACE) Inhibitor or (ARB) Therapy for Patients with CAD and Diabetes and/or (LVSD)	75.44	60.98	65.75	

Overall Quality Score for 2014: 92.10%

For ACO-8, ACO-9, ACO-10, and ACO-27, a lower performance rate indicates better performance.

Results After 3 years

- Demonstrated high quality performance on population health measures
- No shared savings attained
- So far, HealthFirst's ACO programs have not proven to be the ticket for achieving enhanced payments to primary care providers
- Significant engagement in planning discussions for an all-payer model in 2017 that may effectively provide enhanced payment to primary care providers