

Accountable Care NEWS

Accountable Care Sustainability Planning: Four Things to Do Before the Money Runs Out

"If you are managing an accountable care-like organization, chances are you have been the recipient of some type of delivery system reform funding or other infrastructure-building bolus of cash. Chances also are that you've built programs responsibly, but broadly — which begs the question: What is your plan once the money runs out?"

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1. Figure out what must be kept.
The first question to ask is this: "Which of these programs is worth sustaining?" Given that ACOs are designed to promote improved care and health and reduced costs, this may seem like a strange question. However, now is the time to conduct an honest ROI: What outcomes are you seeing in your population in terms of total cost of care? Can you sustain your programs focused on long-term returns (e.g., smoking cessation)?

- *Do this:* Go beyond standard quality measure reporting and leverage institutional benchmarks to conduct an honest evaluation.

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Washington DC Watch Home Care, Medicaid, Data Sharing Top Capital's To Do List

ACOs to CMS: "Now is the moment for a focused and rigorous effort to liberate the data currently available in the healthcare system to enable patients and their providers to seamlessly access and share all their digital health information."

N AACOS, Others Call for New Hospital Data Sharing Rules

Noting that they "represent many different parts of the healthcare system," a group of major accountable care players — led by the National Association of Accountable Care Organizations -- wrote a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services about CMS 1964-P, formally titled "Request for Information on Promoting Interoperability and Electronic Healthcare Information Exchange through Possible Revisions to the CMS Patient Health and Safety Requirements for Hospitals and Other Medicare- and Medicaid-Participating Providers and Suppliers." The letter signers say they're "united in the belief that we must collaborate in building the infrastructure to share data -- the backbone of our collective efforts to improve quality, reduce total cost of care, improve patient experience and finally bring healthcare into the digital age."

- "We support data sharing related to readmissions: improved care coordination and quality and a reduction in unnecessary or even dangerous care," the letter writers said.
- Data sharing "represents an important first step in forcing change to a system that has been too slow to evolve in a way that puts the needs of patients first."

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