

Accountable Care NEWS

Connecting Far-Flung Facilities Through PHM Tools Essential for National ACO

Like many Accountable Care Organizations with multiple locations, National ACO was in need of a single-source provider to aggregate clinical and administrative data from multiple sources, providers and systems – to provide actionable reporting to management, physicians and staff in the different locations. The firm chose the Bridge population health management platform from The Garage to handle that task.

by Alex Foxman MD
Co-Founder, Chief Medical Officer & President
National ACO, Beverly Hills

Optimal management of high-risk patient populations is challenging, even when they reside in a single community. My organization, National ACO, has taken that challenge a step further by trying to manage such patient populations across the country. A daunting task, as you can imagine. Based in Beverly Hills, National ACO includes participants in California, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. Having providers separated by thousands of miles and three time zones can increase management complexity, but we have found that utilizing a single population health management technology platform and sharing best practices has shrunk that distance and made the far-flung group of independent physician practices tightly unified and focused.

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3 Keys to Success for ACO Leaders

ACOs range from independent practice associations to owned physician models to integrated delivery systems that include hospitals, physicians and skilled nursing facilities. Healthcare organizations have come to realize that successful ACOs are not defined by provider participants, but rather the structure they use to manage total medical expense and improve care quality for patients in value-based contracts.

by Deborah Schoenthaler
Chief Operating Officer
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There is no one-size-fits-all approach to becoming an Accountable Care Organization. An ACO can be broadly defined as an organization of providers that have come together to form a formal and defined infrastructure that manages the delivery and quality of care of a specific patient population (commercial, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.) – and that works to improve patient care within the framework of a health plan global risk contract.

At Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization, our ACO consists of 2,600 physicians, including more than 500 primary care providers, and eight hospitals. In 2012, BIDCO became a Medicare Pioneer ACO to help providers improve the delivery of care for their patients across the care continuum, earning national recognition for overall performance and quality reporting. From 2012 to 2017, BIDCO providers reduced costs, improved performance and achieved annual surpluses in nearly all our major Medicare and commercial global payment contracts.

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