

## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Community Health Provider Alliance (CHPA) Earns High-Quality Marks, Saves Medicare Money** *ACOs Improve Quality and Reduce Costs While Preserving Medicare Beneficiary Choice of Providers*

**Denver, Colorado — Community Health Provider Alliance (CHPA)** improved care for **13,998** Medicare beneficiaries in the state of Colorado and saved Medicare **\$14,606,523** by meeting quality and cost goals in 2021, according to recently released performance data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that administers Medicare. That's a saving to the system of \$1,043 per Medicare beneficiary, while at the same time maintaining high-quality patient care.

Medicare data shows **CHPA** earned a quality score of **84.81** percent on performance measures ranging from preventive health checks to the use of computerized health records to preventing avoidable hospitalizations. The **\$14,606,523** of gross savings to Medicare resulted in a shared savings payment of **\$5,725,756.88** of shared savings payments to **CHPA**, 60% of which will be distributed to the participating member Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs).

CHPA joined the CMS Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) in 2017 and shared savings were first earned in the third performance year of 2019. CHPA has continued achieving savings since then, obtaining **\$37.6 million in total savings for CMS over the last three years**. Even throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic, quality scores remained above 84%, and CHPA continues to implement various programs to reduce the total cost of care while improving quality and patient satisfaction.

Member CHCs who participated in the MSSP program work to increase the number of Medicare beneficiaries taking advantage of annual wellness visits, including recommended screenings and preventive care. The ACO also focuses on ensuring smooth patient transitions from the hospital to home and provides various supports to manage patients with chronic conditions and complex social risk factors. All member CHCs receive detailed information about their performance on quality measures from CHPA. And clinicians and providers share best practices to coordinate the care beneficiaries receive from different primary care and specialty providers to prevent health issues and repeat hospitalizations.

CHPA's member CHCs have independent electronic health records (EHRs) and in addition to achieving savings in the 2021 performance year, CHPA was one of only 12 accountable care organizations (ACOs)—out of a total of 475 participating—able to report electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). This was due to collaborative relationships with several key partners who also serve the CHCs.

CHPA member CHCs who participated in the MSSP program include:

Axis Health Systems	Salud Family Health Centers
Clinica Family Health Services	Sheridan Health Services
High Plains Community Health Centers	STRIDE Community Health Centers
Marillac Health	Summit Community Care Clinic
Northwest Colorado Health	Sunrise Community Health
Peak Vista Community Health Centers	Tepeyac Family Health
Pueblo Community Health Center	Valley-Wide Health Systems

A market-based solution to fragmented and costly care, ACOs empower local physicians, hospitals, and other providers to work together and take responsibility for improving quality, enhancing patient experience, and keeping care affordable. The MSSP creates incentives for ACOs to invest in transformed care by allowing them to share in savings they generate after meeting defined quality and cost goals.

In 2021 nationally, 475 ACOs caring for over 10 million beneficiaries participated in the MSSP, generating [gross savings of \\$1.96 billion](#) based on the CMS methodology for setting financial benchmarks. After accounting for shared savings earned by ACOs in 2021, estimated net Medicare savings were \$900 million.

“The Medicare Shared Savings Program demonstrates how a coordinated care approach can improve quality and outcomes for people with Medicare while also reducing costs for the entire health system,” said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. “Accountable Care Organizations are a true Affordable Care Act success story, and it is inspiring to see the results year after year.”

A fact sheet with more information about MSSP ACOs is available online, along with other resources—[What is an ACO?](#)—and the [ABCs of ACOs](#).

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Community Health Provider Alliance (CHPA) is a nonprofit accountable care organization (ACO) formed around a statewide integrated network of Colorado Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs), that offer comprehensive primary care services to their patients.

Formed in 2014 as a 501(c)(3) organization, CHPA has decreased overall healthcare costs and increased patient satisfaction in its population. The integrated network of 19 CHCs participate in various payer-specific quality improvement projects in the Medicare, Medicaid, and Commercial ACO. The network of providers includes 740 medical providers and advanced practice providers, 118 behavioral health, and 500 dental providers that operate in more than 140 locations across the state of Colorado. These providers provide care for over 855,000 lives.

Members of CHPA must agree to work as an ACO focused on adopting and implementing best practices to improve the health and well-being of CHPA’s patients. Members agree to adopt and adhere to evidence-based clinical guidelines. Providers and clinics are required to actively participate

in activities and CHPA initiatives to improve the quality, efficiency, and coordination of patient- care, including:

- Participating in clinical education, care coordination activities, and regular clinical and quality improvement meetings
- Reviewing CHC performance data and testing, demonstrating improvements and progress toward CHPA goals
- Implementing population health management strategies, including the implementation of health information technology to improve systems, care coordination, population management, and risk adjustment
- Adhering to clinical guidelines, as demonstrated by performance on nationally endorsed measures and defined performance targets

Learn more about CHPA and its members at [chpanetwork.com](http://chpanetwork.com).