



## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

September 22, 2014

### Quick Links

[MA-ACA Website](#)



These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

### Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

### Grant Activity

For information about ACA grants awarded to and grant proposals submitted by the Commonwealth, visit the Grants page of the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html>

### Guidance

Prior guidance can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html>

### News

**9/16/2014 CMS issued quality and financial performance results showing that Medicare Accountable Care Organization (ACO) programs have improved patient care and saved hundreds**

**of millions of dollars.** One element of efforts to reform the health care delivery system, ACOs are designed to achieve cost savings over several years while improving patient care.

Authorized by ACA §3022, the Pioneer ACO model was designed for health care organizations and providers already experienced in organizing care for patients across care settings, while the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) helps to facilitate collaboration among providers to improve the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. According to the CMS report, savings from the Medicare ACOs, including the established Pioneer ACOs, delivered \$372 million in savings during the time periods described below.

The Pioneer Model and the MSSP generated over \$372 million in total program savings for Medicare ACOs. This news comes from preliminary quality and financial results from the second year of performance for 23 Pioneer ACOs, and final results from the first year of performance for 220 ACOs.

ACOs are groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers, who come together voluntarily to give coordinated high quality care to the Medicare patients they serve to help ensure that patients, especially the chronically ill, get appropriate care, with the goal of avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and preventing medical errors. When an ACO succeeds in both delivering high-quality care and spending health care dollars more efficiently, it will share in the savings it achieves for the Medicare program.

Since passage of the Affordable Care Act, more than 360 Medicare ACOs have been established in 47 states, serving over 5.6 million Americans with Medicare.

To learn more about these results, visit: [HHS.GOV](http://HHS.GOV)

**9/15/2015 The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is seeking public comment on their Proposal for Peer Review of Primary Research and Public Release of Research Findings.** Created under ACA §6301, PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization, tasked with conducting patient-centered outcomes research and studies.

PCORI is seeking public comment on the process of peer-reviewing their primary research in order to make research findings publicly available in a form that is useful to patients, clinicians, and others. This process is part of PCORI's broad dissemination and implementation plan in order to put knowledge gained from patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) into practice. Input and comments from patients and the entire health care community is a vital part of developing this process. PCORI will analyze the comments received and determine the degree to which its proposal should be revised.

Comments are due November 7, 2014.

For more information about PCORI, visit [PCORI](http://PCORI)

Read this proposed process and make comments by visiting: [PCORI](http://PCORI)

**9/12/2014 HHS awarded over \$295 million in funding under ACA §10503 to increase access to primary care at 1,195 health centers** in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Pacific Basin. The funds will be used to expand primary care services while creating an estimated 4,750 new jobs.

The awards will enable participating health centers to increase access to primary health services by hiring new health care providers and operating additional hours. Funds will also allow health centers to expand the care that they provide to include new services such as oral health, behavioral health, pharmacy, and vision services. These investments will help health centers reach an estimated 1.5 million new patients nationwide, including 46,594 patients in Massachusetts.

The grant awardees included thirty seven health centers in Massachusetts, receiving \$8,770,906 in total funding that will go towards services provided by 131 new full time employees.

For a complete list of Massachusetts awardees, visit: [HRSA.GOV](http://HRSA.GOV)

To read this announcement, visit: [HHS.GOV](http://HHS.GOV)

**9/11/2014 HHS awarded \$3.2 million in grant awards to 13 organizations to help support their health insurance outreach and enrollment activities**, especially enrollment of racial and ethnic minorities.

The grants, funded under the Partnerships to Increase Coverage in Communities (PICC) Initiative, will help organizations identify, inform and enroll minority populations in coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace (ACA §1311(b)). The PICC is designed to provide educational opportunities and translation programs that will help applicants with the health the insurance enrollment process, and connect eligible minorities to coverage that meets their health care needs.

The PICC Initiative awards will support thirteen organizations, including The University of Massachusetts – Boston, which received \$237,816 in funding.

To read this announcement, visit: [HHS.GOV](http://HHS.GOV)

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Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [National Health Care Reform](#) to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check the Mass.Gov website at: [Dual Eligibles](#) for information on the "**Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals**" initiative.

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