



## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

June 15, 2015

### 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 Announcements

**Immunization - Strengthening Surveillance for Diseases Among Newly-Arrived Immigrants and Refugees, \$4002.** Announced June 8, 2015.

Funding is available to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and/or quality of refugee immunization data practices by establishing or strengthening the capacity of awardees to submit data to, and retrieve data from, state Immunization Information Systems (IIS) in order to characterize and perform follow-up services on vaccination information of refugees at risk for vaccine preventable diseases.

Eligible applicants are limited to previous CDC Refugee Health grantees in order to ensure availability of the necessary infrastructure to perform the activities required and the experience needed to successfully complete the required functions.

Applications are due July 23, 2015.

For more information about the CDC Refugee Health, visit: [CDC.GOV](#)

View the announcement at: [GRANTS.GOV](#)

### 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: [www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html)

## Guidance

**6/11/15 HHS published a correction to the final "Standards Related to Reinsurance, Risk Corridors and Risk Adjustment" rule.** The document corrects technical errors in the [final rule](#) that was published in the Federal Register on March 23, 2012. The final rule implements standards under §1341, §1342, §1343 of the ACA for states related to reinsurance and risk adjustment, and for health insurance issuers related to reinsurance, risk corridors, and risk adjustment. The ACA set up three risk-mitigation programs to stabilize premiums in the individual insurance market and minimize the effects of adverse selection that may occur as insurance reforms and the Exchanges launch in 2014. These programs include transitional reinsurance (§1341), temporary risk corridors programs (§1342), and a permanent risk adjustment program (§1343).

Read the correction at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-11/pdf/2015-14262.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-11/pdf/2015-14262.pdf)

**6/4/15 HHS/CMS issued the final rule called "Medicare Program; Medicare Shared Savings Program: Accountable Care Organizations."**

The final rule addresses changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program, ACA §3022), including provisions relating to the payment of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) participating in the Shared Savings Program. Under the Medicare Shared Savings Program, providers of services and suppliers that participate in an ACO continue to receive traditional Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) payments under Parts A and B, but the ACO may be eligible to receive a shared savings payment if it meets specified quality and savings requirements.

Accountable Care Organizations (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. Coordinated care helps ensure that patients, especially the chronically ill, get the right care at the right time, with the goal of avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and preventing medical errors. According to CMS, when an ACO succeeds in both delivering high-quality care and spending health care dollars more wisely, it will share in the savings it achieves for the Medicare program.

Read the final rule (which was published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2015) at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-09/pdf/2015-14005.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-09/pdf/2015-14005.pdf)

Prior guidance can be found at: [www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html)

## News

**6/10/15 The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) announced more than \$1.34 million in awards for six grant awards through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Program.**

The Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards encourage the active integration of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders who are part of the medical research process. The program provides a platform to expand the role of these stakeholders in research and to support PCORI engagement strategies that include developing a skilled community of patients and other stakeholders.

The six awards will be used for studies being conducted at the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the Illinois Total Resource Community Development Organization, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Created under ACA §6301, PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization, tasked with conducting patient-centered outcomes and studies.

The deadline to submit Letters of Inquiry for the next round of funding under this opportunity is July 1, 2015.

To learn more about these awards, visit: [PCORI.ORG](http://PCORI.ORG)

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

## Upcoming Events

### Money Follows the Person (MFP) Semi-Annual Informational Meeting

June 24, 2015  
2:00 PM -3:30 PM  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Public Health Council Room  
250 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Click link for [directions](#)

Please contact [MFP@state.ma.us](mailto:MFP@state.ma.us) to RSVP and to request reasonable accommodations. Although RSVPs are greatly appreciated, they are not required.

### Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Implementation Council Meetings

Friday, June 19, 2015, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor  
Boston, MA

Friday, July 24, 2015, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Transportation Building  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA

---

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.



Follow **MassHealth** on YouTube!



Follow **MassHealth** on YouTube!

---

To subscribe to receive the ACA Update, send an email to: [join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us). To unsubscribe from the ACA Update, send an email to: [leave-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:leave-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us). Note: When you click on the sign up link, a blank e-mail should appear. If your settings prevent this, you may also copy and paste [join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us) into the address line of a blank e-mail. Just send the blank e-mail as it's addressed. No text in the body or subject line is needed.