

What is an Accountable Care Organization?

An Accountable Care Organization (ACO) is a network of physicians and other health care providers who share financial and medical responsibility for patients. Together, they focus on quality of care, population health management, the patient experience and cost. ACOs collectively work to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of care at the lowest possible cost.

How Do ACOs Work?

- ACOs enter into value-based agreements with insurance payers.
- The value-based agreements include specific performance measures centered around quality and cost.
- Quality measures focus on services patients need the most, such as: preventive screenings, immunizations, disease management and medication management.
- Decreasing total cost of care through initiatives. For example, improving transitions of care with a focus on post-acute resources, in network referrals and decreasing medication spend.

If the ACO reaches the performance measures — including lowering the total cost of care — they are financially rewarded with **Shared Savings**.

If they do not meet the measures, they miss out on the savings and may be financially penalized.

Successful ACOs Require a Team-Based Approach

Provider

- Focus on trusting relationships while providing excellent care.
- Address preventative care at each visit.
- Discuss advance care planning and patient wishes annually.

Nurse/Clinical Staff

- Pre-visit planning to address care gaps and to reduce duplicate services.
- Make referrals and assist with scheduling.
- Set up nurse visits to close appropriate care gaps.

Front Desk and Other Staff

- Schedule referrals, labs and other appointments.
- Active outreach to patients that need follow-up or annual visits.

VALUE-BASED CARE

A value-based care model shifts focus to the patient, through:

- Quality of care
- Positive health care experience
- Staying healthy and active
- Lowering costs



VOLUME-BASED CARE

Physicians get paid based on the number of patients they see and the services they provide.

Meaningful Data

The ACO collects and analyzes data from a number of sources including electronic medical records, insurance claims and pharmacy records to identify patient trends and population health needs.

This analysis helps improve patients' overall care and promotes the shift from a reactive environment to a proactive approach.



Scan the QR Code to learn more about Accountable Care Organizations and Bryan Health Connect