

Accountable Care Organization

Overview

WHAT IS AN ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION?

An Accountable Care Organization 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.

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ACOs are leading the change from a volume-based care model to a **value-based** one.

VOLUME-BASED CARE

VS

VALUE-BASED CARE



Physicians get paid based on the number of patients they see and the services they provide, rather than meaningful patient outcomes.



Patients have to coordinate their own care, which means patients:

- Schedule their own appointments
- Monitor their own prescriptions
- Juggle recommendations from multiple providers

Overall, the volume-based care model can lead to repetitive tests, miscommunication or even conflicting medication. This drives up the cost of health care and is not in the patients' best interest.

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



Quality of Care



Positive Health-Care Experience



Staying Healthy and Active



Lowering Costs

HOW DO ACOs WORK?

ACOs enter into value-based contracts with insurance providers. 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.

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.



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 shift from a reactive environment to a proactive approach.

To learn more about Accountable Care Organizations and the NHN go to NebraskaHealthNetwork.com.



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