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Coordinated Care Reward

The Coordinated Care Reward is a \$25 check payment sent directly from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to certain Medicare beneficiaries who receive care from health care professionals participating in a Next Generation Accountable Care Organization (ACO). The Coordinated Care Reward is rewarding these beneficiaries for receiving their Annual Wellness Visit from a doctor who participates in a Next Generation ACO. The Annual Wellness Visit provides a Medicare beneficiary the opportunity to discuss family and medical history, preventive care, medications, and the other doctors that are regularly involved in providing medical care to the beneficiary. This visit can help provide better care and care coordination, and Medicare wants to encourage more beneficiaries to take advantage of this.

The Coordinated Care Reward & What it Means for You

Q1. How do I know if I am a beneficiary aligned with a Next Generation ACO and if I can qualify to receive the Coordinated Care Reward?

A1. The Coordinated Care Reward is available to Medicare beneficiaries who receive an Annual Wellness Visit from a Next Generation ACO doctor during a time when the beneficiary was “aligned” to that ACO. If “aligned” to a Next Generation ACO, a beneficiary should receive a letter from the Next Generation ACO notifying them that they are aligned to, or associated with, the Next Generation ACO. A beneficiary can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to ask whether they are aligned to a Next Generation ACO and to obtain additional information regarding the Coordinated Care Reward. If you are associated with a Next Generation ACO, and receive your Annual Wellness Visit from a doctor participating in the Next Generation ACO, you can qualify for the Coordinated Care Reward.

Q2. How do I know if my doctor is participating in a Next Generation ACO?

A2. Next Generation ACOs are required to make available, upon request, a current list of doctors and facilities participating in the Next Generation ACO, either in hard copy or on the Next Generation ACO’s website. As always, beneficiaries can also ask their doctors about health care providers and facilities participating in the Next Generation ACO.

Q3. What is an Annual Wellness Visit?

A3. An Annual Wellness Visit is a Medicare-covered visit with a health care provider or medical professional meant to provide all Medicare beneficiaries with an opportunity to discuss their family and medical history, preventive care, medications, and other doctors that are regularly involved in providing medical care to a beneficiary. An Annual Wellness Visit is not a physical exam; it is a distinct visit that Medicare will cover and provides you the opportunity to have a conversation with your doctor about your health. It can be received no more than once in a twelve-month period.

Q4. Why is CMS rewarding beneficiaries who receive an Annual Wellness Visit?

A4. Patients who receive coordinated care often stay healthier, have fewer complications, and require fewer hospitalizations. CMS acknowledges the value that coordinated care provides, and is therefore rewarding certain beneficiaries who receive an Annual Wellness Visit from a doctor participating in a Next Generation ACO. CMS is solely responsible for the terms and payment of the Coordinated Care Reward. The reward does not limit beneficiaries' freedom of choice of health care provider.

Q5. How do I receive my Coordinated Care Reward?

A5. CMS will identify beneficiaries who have qualified to receive the Coordinated Care Reward on a quarterly basis, so that beneficiaries can receive their reward after receiving an Annual Wellness Visit with a Next Generation ACO. CMS will be sending the Coordinated Care Rewards to the address that the beneficiary has listed with the Social Security Administration.

Q6. When do these payments start?

A6. Check payments are going to be run on a quarterly basis; however, the first quarter has yet be paid and we anticipate the first payments to be issued in July 2017.

Q7. I've moved in the past few months. How do I ensure that my reward is mailed to my new address?

A7. CMS will use the address on file with the Social Security Administration. In order to update your mailing address with the Social Security Administration please visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/> or call 1-800-772-1213.

Q8. What if I received my Annual Wellness Visit, but have not yet received my Coordinated Care Reward?

A8. There may be a few reasons you have not received a Coordinated Care Reward check after your Annual Wellness Visit. First, it is important to verify that your doctor is participating in a Next Generation ACO. You can do so by asking your doctor, or checking the ACO's current roster of doctors, either in hard copy or by reference to the Next Generation ACO's website. Only beneficiaries who received an Annual Wellness Visit furnished by a doctor participating in a Next Generation ACO will qualify for the Coordinated Care Reward. Second, CMS needs to process your Annual Wellness Visit claim before you can receive the Coordinated Care Reward. Payments for the Coordinated Care Reward are made to qualified beneficiaries on a quarterly cycle. If CMS has not yet processed your Annual Wellness Visit claim by the time the Coordinated Care Reward payments are made for the quarter, you will likely receive the Coordinated Care Reward payment the following quarter.

Q9: How is the rewards program funded?

A9: CMS is paying for this initiative as part of the Next Generation ACO Model. Medicare beneficiaries are aligned to Next Generation ACOs based on the use of primary care services from doctors participating in ACOs. Next Generation ACOs are accountable for the cost and

quality of aligned beneficiaries, which allows CMS to make this investment in encouraging care coordination.

More Information Here:

Additional information on Annual Wellness Visits:

<https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/preventive-visit-and-yearly-wellness-exams.html>

https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/AWV_Chart_ICN905706.pdf

More information on how your Next Generation ACO coordinates your care:

<https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Next-Generation-ACO-Model/>.