

Next Generation ACO Model

Coordinated Care Reward for Annual Wellness Visits

Frequently Asked Questions

April 2019

The Coordinated Care Reward is a \$25 payment sent directly from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to certain Medicare beneficiaries who received care from health care professionals participating in a Next Generation Accountable Care Organization (ACO) in 2017 and 2018. The purpose of this Coordinated Care Reward was to payments were for beneficiaries who received their Annual Wellness Visit from a doctor who participated in a Next Generation ACO. The Coordinated Care Reward was only applicable for 2017 and 2018, and is not available for to beneficiaries for Annual Wellness Visits furnished in 2019 or 2020.

Q1: How do I know if I qualified for a Coordinated Care Reward?

A1: The Coordinated Care Reward was available to Medicare beneficiaries who received an Annual Wellness Visit in 2017 or 2018 from a health care professional participating in or affiliated with a Next Generation ACO during a time when the beneficiary was “aligned” to that ACO. If “aligned” to a Next Generation ACO during 2017 or 2018, a beneficiary would, beneficiaries receive a letter from the Next Generation ACO notifying them that they were aligned to, or associated with, the Next Generation ACO. Reward checks are mailed once per quarter. If the claim for an eligible Annual Wellness Visit was paid before November 30th of 2018, the check should have been received by the beneficiary in early February of 2019. If the claim for an eligible annual wellness visit was paid before December 31st of 2018, the check should be received by the beneficiary in early May of 2019. If you believe that you should have gotten a reward check but did not receive one, please call 1-800-MEDICARE.

Q2: What is an Annual Wellness Visit?

A2: An Annual Wellness Visit is a Medicare-covered visit with a doctor or other health care provider meant to provide all Medicare beneficiaries an opportunity to develop or update their personalized prevention plan designed to help prevent disease and disability based on current health and risk factors. The visit includes a Health Risk Assessment, and can include a review of family and medical history, developing or updating a list of current medications and care providers, measurement of height, weight, blood pressure and other routine measurements, a cognitive assessment, personalized health advice, a list of risk factors and treatment options, and a screening schedule for appropriate preventive services. . 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 health care provider about your health. It can be received no more than once in a twelve-month period.

Q3: Why was CMS rewarding beneficiaries who receive an Annual Wellness Visit?

A3: Patients who receive coordinated care often stay healthier, have fewer complications, and require fewer hospitalizations. CMS acknowledges the value that coordinated care provides, and was therefore rewarding certain beneficiaries who received 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.

Q4: Why are beneficiaries not able to receive a Coordinated Care Reward after 2018?

A4: The Coordinated Care Reward was a time-limited test for the Next Generation ACO Model that was only applicable for 2017 and 2018. CMS is now testing other initiatives, including benefit enhancements to improve beneficiary care, such as a Chronic Disease Management Reward.

Q5: How do I receive my Coordinated Care Reward?

A5: CMS identifies 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 from a health care provider participating in or affiliated with a Next Generation ACO. CMS sends the Coordinated Care Rewards to the address that the beneficiary has listed with the Social Security Administration.

Q6: When did these payments start?

A6: Payments began in 2017 and are sent out on a quarterly basis.

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 health care provider was participating in or affiliated with a Next Generation ACO in the year in which you received your Annual Wellness Visit. You can do so by asking your health care provider. Only beneficiaries who received an Annual Wellness Visit furnished in 2017 or 2018 by a health care provider who was participating in or affiliated with a Next Generation ACO at the time the service was furnished qualified 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 was 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 and other health care providers participating in Next Generation ACOs. Next Generation ACOs are accountable for the cost and quality of the care furnished to 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>

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

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