



# The New ACO REACH Program

On January 1, 2023, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation will launch a new payment model pilot to promote health equity and minimize healthcare disparities for underserved communities: ACO Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health Model—or ACO REACH. Designed primarily for provider organizations, ACO REACH replaces the Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) payment model.

## ACO REACH ACTIVELY PROMOTES HEALTH EQUITY FOR THE UNDERSERVED

**Provider-Led ACO Model:** Providers or their designated representatives will control at least 75% of REACH ACOs' governing boards, compared to 25% in GPDC. Each board must also have two beneficiary advocates.

**Robust Health Equity Planning:** In order to improve care delivery to patients in underserved communities, model participants must develop and implement robust health equity plans that identify communities and execute initiatives to reduce health disparities within them.

**Greater Participant Transparency:** The vetting and monitoring process for ACO REACH participants will be more stringent than for GPDC to ensure that the participants' vision for health equity aligns with CMS's. New protections will be explored to eliminate inappropriate coding and risk score growth.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- **Standard ACOs** with experience serving Original Medicare patients.
- **New Entrant ACOs** who may rely initially on voluntary alignment and claims-based alignment.
- **High Needs Population ACOs** that serve high-risk Original Medicare patients with complex needs who are aligned through voluntary or claims-based alignment.



Current GPDC Model participants **do not** need to submit a new application, but must maintain a strong compliance record in 2022 and accept the requirements for the ACO REACH model by January 1, 2023.

## REPORTING STRUCTURE

CMS will gather data to monitor the participants' ability to improve care quality and reduce costs, including contract terms, operations data, and financial benchmarks. CMS will share this information with stakeholders in advance of publishing evaluation results to maintain greater transparency.

Acclivity's experts continue to stay on top of the latest CMS payment models so we can support you with technology that enables you to meet the clinical and financial goals of your value-based care contracts. To learn more about ACO REACH and how we can help you, please email us at [info@acclivityhealth.com](mailto:info@acclivityhealth.com) or contact us at 904 562 1368.

