



**NOTICE TO PATIENTS:
Your Doctor's Practice is Participating in an Accountable
Care Organization
and
Information on sharing your health information**

Your Doctor's Practice Is Participating in a New Care Coordination Program

This letter is to let you know that your doctor's practice has chosen to participate in a Medicare **Accountable Care Organization (ACO)**.

We're Working to Improve Your Care

An ACO is a group of doctors and other health care providers working together with Medicare to give you better service and care. The goal of an ACO is for your doctors to communicate closely with your other health care providers to deliver high-quality care and meet your unique individual needs and preferences. The ACO may be rewarded for providing you with high quality, more coordinated care.

You Can Still See Any Doctor or go to any Hospital

Your Medicare benefits are not changing, and you will still receive your benefits through Original Medicare. This isn't a Medicare Advantage plan or an HMO plan. You still have the right to use any doctor or hospital who accepts Medicare, at any time. We may continue to recommend that you see particular doctors for your specific health needs, but it's always your choice about what doctors you use or hospitals you visit.

You Control Your Personal Information

To help us give you the right care in the right place at the right time, Medicare plans to start sharing certain health information with us about your care. This information will include things like visits to the doctor or hospital, medical conditions, and prescriptions you've had in the past and moving forward. Having this information will help us and your other health care providers participating in our ACO give you high-quality care, because we'll have the most up-to-date information about your health.

Your privacy is very important to us, and you control the use of your personal health information. Like Medicare, we have important safeguards in place to make sure all your medical information is safe.

You Can Choose to Not Share Your Health Information

If you choose, you can ask Medicare not to share your personal health information with us by doing one of these things:

- Call 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Complete and Sign the **“Declining to Share Personal Health Information”** form in your doctor’s office.
- Complete, sign, and return the **“Declining to Share Personal Health Information”** form included with this letter.

If you want to ask Medicare not to share your information with us, you should take one of the three steps described above. Even after Medicare begins to share your information with us, you may always ask Medicare to stop this information-sharing in the future.

Please note, however, that Medicare will not share any information about alcohol or drug treatment without express written permission. If you have received such treatment, it is important that we understand all of your health needs in order to allow the health care providers that treat you to coordinate your care. To give this permission, complete the **“Consent for the Release of Confidential Alcohol or Drug Treatment Information”** form and give it to us or mail it to the address indicated on the form.

If you have received such treatment, consenting to allow Medicare to share this information about you with us will not change who you go to for alcohol or drug abuse prevention, treatment or recovery supports, but will help us provide better health care for you. You may withdraw your consent to share this information at any time either in writing or over the phone if you want Medicare to stop sharing this information.

Questions

If you have questions or concerns, you can call VirtuaCare at (855) 847-8566, or bring it up next time you’re in your doctor’s office. You can also visit www.medicare.gov/acos.html or call 1-800-MEDICARE and tell the operator you are asking about ACOs (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048).