

Value-Based Care In Action

Comparison of ACO Partner Providers vs. Out-of-Network Cohort on Care Utilization and Quality Metrics

Change Healthcare and ACO Partner™ shared the first full-year results of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Shared Savings Program, a value-based care program administered throughout Arizona.

More than 600 in-network primary care providers treated over 41,500 patients through 2017. Participating providers outperformed cohort in emergency department visits, acute hospital admissions, readmission rates (30 day and all-cause), specialty pharmacy spend, imaging utilization, and other areas.

These cost and quality gains led to the program remitting a total of \$1 million to 603 participating providers, while making measurable progress toward achieving healthcare’s “triple aim” of reducing costs, enhancing the patient experience, and improving population health. Indeed, the program drove a risk-adjusted claims cost trend for 2017 that was 3.7% lower than the cohort.

Utilization and Quality Metric	ACO Partner	Cohort	Difference	Variance	Comparative Outcomes for Patients Treated by ACO Partner Providers
Emergency Dept. (ED) visits per 1000 patients	156	184	28	15.2%	Fewer ED visits
Emergency Dept. (ED) LANE (low-actuity non-emergent) visits	4%	4%	0%	0.0%	Equal
Admits per 1000 patients (acute only)	40	50	10	20.0%	Fewer admissions
Short-stay admissions (less than 24 hours)	27%	22%	-5.0%	-22.7%	Higher % of in-network admissions were short stay
Preventable admissions per 1000 patients (defined by AHRQ)	2	2	0	0.0%	Equal number of preventable admissions
Readmission within 30 days (in same clinical category)	2.9%	3.9%	1.0%	26.3%	Lower rate of 30 day readmissions
All cause readmission rate	6.5%	9.0%	2.5%	28.1%	Lower rate of all cause readmissions
Generic vs. brand utilization	87%	87%	0.0%	0.0%	Equal utilization of generic pharmacy
Quality Index (Various HEDIS-driven quality measures)	75%	73%	2%	2.7%	More consistent treatment aligned with quality index metrics
Speciality Rx per 1000 patients	240	284	44	15.5%	Fewer speciality prescriptions
PET/CT/MRI scans per 1000 patients	278	287	9	3.1%	Fewer overall scans
High Efficiency Network (HEN) specialist utilization	59%	56%	3%	5.4%	More referrals to high-quality, high efficiency specialists



\$1.0M remitted to 603 participating providers

- = Superior
- = Equal
- = Inferior
- = Key metric

Established in 2016, ACO Partner is a value-based care organization operated by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona and Change Healthcare. ACO Partner contracts independent primary care providers to join the program to earn shared savings, and provides them with sophisticated patient data analytics, care coordination, and provider engagement services. Unlike traditional accountable care organizations, providers can earn rewards for value-based performance but are not charged membership or service fees.