

# News

For Immediate Release From Sharp HealthCare

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**Sharp HealthCare to Participate as a  
Medicare Next Generation Accountable Care Organization**

*New Model Designed to Optimize Care for Beneficiaries Through Partnership with Medicare*

**SAN DIEGO** – Sharp HealthCare today announced it is the only San Diego health care system selected to participate in the Next Generation Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Model, an initiative sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Through the Next Generation ACO Model, the newly created Sharp HealthCare ACO-II will work with CMS to pilot a program for Medicare beneficiaries that enhances the engagement between patients and their medical providers in the coordination of care and services across all aspects of their health care needs. Patients will benefit from improved quality and outcomes as a result of a more efficient and coordinated approach among providers.

“Through our network of hospitals and affiliated medical groups, Sharp has a long history of successfully delivering coordinated, patient-centered, high-quality care that sets community standards, exceeds patient expectations and is provided in a convenient, cost-effective and accessible manner,” said Mike Murphy, President and CEO of Sharp HealthCare. “Under this pilot, we will be actively engaging an expanded population of Medicare beneficiaries in a comprehensive, coordinated care model.”

According to Dr. Alan Bier, President of Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group, “In the traditional fee-for-service model, patient care can sometimes be fragmented across many providers who do not have access to all of a patient’s clinical information, which may inhibit a comprehensive approach to a patient’s care plan. Under the Next Generation ACO Model, we will focus on engaging patients and health care providers in a comprehensive and coordinated approach to meet each patient’s needs and ensure the right care is given at the right time and in the right place.”

Building upon experience from the Pioneer ACO Model and the Medicare Shared Savings Program, the Next Generation ACO Model offers an opportunity in accountable care—one that sets predictable financial targets, enables providers and beneficiaries greater opportunities to coordinate care, and aims to attain the highest quality standards of care. Sharp HealthCare previously participated in the Pioneer ACO Model, but it withdrew from the initiative in 2014.

“Sharp experienced favorable utilization and quality performance as a Pioneer ACO, while gaining Medicare ACO experience,” said Alison Fleury, CEO of Sharp HealthCare ACO-II. “There were certain features of the Pioneer ACO Model that proved challenging to Sharp HealthCare. However, the financial targets set under the Next Generation Model address these issues and Sharp is excited to participate.”

“We applaud the Next Generation ACO Model’s focus on quality, improved health outcomes, the patient experience and cost-effective care that CMS and Sharp will be measuring and be held accountable to,” said Dr. Kenneth Roth, President of Sharp Community Medical Group. “Our independent physician association in partnership with Sharp HealthCare brings many years of experience in these areas and expanding these services to this patient population is a welcome opportunity.”

Today’s announcement was the culmination of a competitive selection process that began in May with the national release of a Request for Applications from CMS. Based on its demonstrated experience in providing high-quality, coordinated care, Sharp was chosen by CMS to pilot the effectiveness of this enhanced approach to care delivery for its aligned Medicare beneficiaries.

### **Background on Sharp HealthCare ACO-II**

Based in San Diego, Sharp HealthCare ACO-II is an integrated health system that serves more than 43,000 Medicare beneficiaries in San Diego County. Sharp HealthCare ACO-II includes: physicians of Sharp Community Medical Group, an independent physician association, including Graybill Medical Group; physicians with Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group, a multispecialty medical group practice; and all Sharp HealthCare hospitals including Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, Sharp Coronado Hospital and Healthcare Center, Sharp Grossmont Hospital, Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns, Sharp McDonald Center, Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital and Sharp Memorial Hospital.

Sharp HealthCare, San Diego's most comprehensive health care delivery system, is recognized for clinical excellence in cardiac, cancer, multi-organ transplantation, orthopedics, rehabilitation, behavioral health, women's health, home health and hospice services. Sharp HealthCare has been widely acclaimed for its commitment to transform the health care experience for patients, physicians and staff through an organization-wide performance improvement initiative called The Sharp Experience. The Sharp HealthCare system includes four acute-care hospitals, three specialty hospitals, two affiliated medical groups, a health plan, and numerous outpatient facilities and programs. To learn more about Sharp, visit [Sharp Health News](#).

### **Helpful Links**

For more information about the Next Generation ACO Model, visit the Next Generation ACO website at <https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Next-Generation-ACO-Model/>. The Next Generation ACO Model is one of several initiatives underway at CMS designed to encourage the formation of ACOs. For more information about ACOs, visit <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ACO/index.html?redirect=/aco/>. For more information about the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, visit <https://innovation.cms.gov/>

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