

# NewYork Quality Care™

The ACO of NewYork-Presbyterian • Columbia • Weill Cornell

## Instructions for Declining to Share Personal Health Information for Care Coordination and Quality Improvement

**DO NOT allow Medicare to share my personal health information for care coordination and quality improvement purposes with NewYork Quality Care and any other ACOs in which any of my doctors or other healthcare providers participate.**

Signature of person with Medicare or representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check here if the person completing and signing this document is serving as a personal representative of the listed person with Medicare. Please attach the appropriate documentation to demonstrate your legal authority to execute this document on behalf of the person with Medicare (for example, Durable Medical Power of Attorney). This box should be checked only if someone other than the person with Medicare signed above.**

Print the personal representative's address (street address, city, state, and ZIP code):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of personal representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal representative's relationship to the person with Medicare: \_\_\_\_\_

### How to Submit Your Preference

Fill out, sign and return this form to your provider's office in person, or by mail to the following address:

NewYork Quality Care  
525 East 68<sup>th</sup> St, Box 334  
New York, NY 10065

**OR**

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and say that you wish Medicare to stop sharing your personal information with ACOs, or that you want to talk about ACOs. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

### Questions

If you have any questions, please contact 1-800-MEDICARE and tell the operator you are asking about ACOs.

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Date: January 16, 2015

## Declining to Share Personal Health Information

Use this form if you do **NOT** want Medicare to share information with NewYork Quality Care about care you have received from doctors or other healthcare providers, for use in coordinating and improving the quality of your care. Your decision not to allow Medicare to share your personal health information with NewYork Quality Care means Medicare won't share information with any ACOs in which any of your doctors or other healthcare providers participate. Completing this form also overrides any previous decision you may have made about sharing your personal health information with another ACO.

You can also call 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) instead of completing this form. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Your decision not to share your personal health information with NewYork Quality Care and any other ACOs in which any of your doctors or other healthcare providers participate will remain in effect unless you communicate a changed preference to us, another ACO, or to Medicare directly through 1-800-Medicare. You may change your decision not to share your personal information at any time. Your request will take effect in approximately 60 days.

Please note that other ACOs in which any of your doctors or other healthcare providers participate may also contact you to ask your preferences about sharing your information with ACOs. If you are satisfied with your most recent response to such an inquiry, you do not need to do anything. If you wish to change your preference, please contact us to request a copy of the Consent to Change Personal Health Information Preference form or call 1-800-MEDICARE and say that you want to change your preference about sharing your personal health information with ACOs or that you want to talk about ACOs. If you are unsure of whether your personal health information is currently being shared with any ACOs for purposes of coordinating and improving the quality of your care, you may ask for that information through 1-800-MEDICARE.

**Note:** Even if you don't want to share your personal information for coordinating and improving the quality of your care with NewYork Quality Care or with any other ACOs in which any of your doctors or other healthcare providers participate, Medicare will still use your information for some purposes, including certain financial calculations and measuring the quality of care provided by NewYork Quality Care and/or those other ACOs. Also, Medicare may share some of your personal health information with those ACOs as part of measuring the quality of care given by the healthcare providers in those ACOs.

### Your Information

Name (first and last name of the person with Medicare): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **You Can Ask Medicare Not To Share Your Medical Information with Us for Care Coordination and Quality Improvement**

Your privacy is very important to us, so we respect your choice on the use of your personal information for care coordination and quality improvement. Just like Medicare, ACOs are required to put important safeguards in place to make sure all your medical information is safe.

**Yes, share my information:** If you want Medicare to share information about care you have received with us and with other ACOs in which any of your doctors or other healthcare providers participates, then **there's nothing more you need to do.**

**No, please don't share my information:** If you choose, you can ask Medicare not to share information with us or with any other ACOs for care coordination and quality improvement purposes by doing **one** of the following:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Be sure to tell the representative you are calling about ACOs. 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 choose not to share your personal medical information for care coordination and quality improvement purposes, we need to get your decision by February 15, 2015 or Medicare will start sharing this information with us and with any other ACOs in which any of your doctors or other healthcare providers participate. However, you may choose to stop this information-sharing at any time in the future by calling 1-800-MEDICARE and telling the representative you are calling about ACOs.

Even if you choose to inform Medicare of your preferences around sharing information with ACOs today, you can always change your mind in the future. To find out how, just call 1-800 MEDICARE and tell the representative you have a question about ACOs, or ask your doctor or healthcare provider working with an ACO.

## **Medicare May Share Some Information to Measure Your Quality of Care**

Even if you don't want Medicare to share your personal information with us or with other ACOs for coordinating and improving the quality of your care, Medicare will still use your information for some purposes, including certain financial calculations and determining the quality of care given by your healthcare providers participating in ACOs. Also, Medicare may share some of your personal health information with ACOs when measuring the quality of care given by healthcare providers at ACOs.

## **Questions?**

If you have questions or concerns, you can call us at 646-697-9991, make an appointment to see your doctor or primary care provider, or bring it up next time you're in your doctor's office. You also can call 1-800-MEDICARE and tell the representative you're calling about ACOs, or visit [www.medicare.gov/acos.html](http://www.medicare.gov/acos.html).

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## NOTICE TO PATIENTS:

### **Your Doctor is Participating in a Medicare Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organization**

#### **Purpose of Letter**

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about the Medicare initiative that your doctor is participating in, and to give you the opportunity to let your doctor know how you feel about sharing your medical information.

#### **ACOs: A Way to Better Coordinate Your Health Care**

Your doctor or primary care provider is participating in NewYork Quality Care, our Medicare Shared Savings Program **Accountable Care Organization (ACO)**. An ACO is a group of doctors, hospitals, and health care providers working together with Medicare to give you high quality, more coordinated service and care.

#### **We're Working to Improve Your Care**

By helping your doctors and primary care providers to communicate more closely with your other health care providers, ACOs can deliver high-quality, more coordinated care that meets your individual needs and preferences. ACOs may share in the savings it achieves for the Medicare program when it succeeds in delivering high-quality care and spending health care dollars more wisely.

#### **You Can Still Choose Any Doctor or Hospital**

**Your Medicare benefits aren't changing.** ACOs are **not** a Medicare Advantage plan, an HMO plan, or an insurance plan of any kind. You still have the right to use any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare, at any time. Your doctor may recommend that you see particular doctors or providers, but it's always your choice about what doctors you use or hospitals you visit.

#### **Having Your Medical Information Gives Us a More Complete Picture of Your Health**

To help us give you the right care, in the right place, at the right time, Medicare plans to start sharing information with us about your care, starting as early as mid-January, 2014. This information will include things like dates and times you visited a doctor or hospital, your medical conditions, and a list of past and current prescriptions.

This information about care you've gotten from other healthcare providers will give the doctors and healthcare providers in our ACO a more complete and up-to-date picture of your health. This information helps your doctors and healthcare providers participating in our ACO to get you the high quality care you need when you need it, and will be shared only with people involved in giving you care.

If you choose to let Medicare share your personal health information with us, your information may also be shared with other ACOs in which any of your doctors or other healthcare providers participate. If you don't want your information shared with these other ACOs, follow the instructions below to decline sharing personal health information.