

Supplement 1. Summary of ACO models included in the rapid synthesis, by launch year

ACO model	Initiator	Launch year	Description
Medicare Physician Group Practice Demonstration (PGP)	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Launched 2005 (5-year demonstration period)	10 large physician groups participated in the Group Practice Demonstration. Beneficiaries were allocated based on retrospective assignment from the previous year. Practices were eligible for up to 80% savings earned beyond the 2% requirement. Expenditures and benchmarks were assigned based on concurrent risk adjustment.(1)
Alternative Quality Contract (AQC)	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts	Launched 2009	AQC contracts were open to provider organizations on an optional basis. AQC's use a global payment model, which combines a fixed per-patient payment with substantial performance incentives tied to quality, effectiveness and patient experience measures.(2, 3)
Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP)	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Launched 2009	MSSPs were required to serve 5000 Medicare beneficiaries and must include sufficient number of primary care physicians to serve this population. A prospective risk adjustment is used with an opportunity to reconcile with services used after each year. Additional payments are made for reporting and quality. Providers share savings on the first dollar once minimum savings of 2% have been achieved.(4)
Advance Payment ACO	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Launched 2011	Advanced payment models provide an advance on expected shared savings and have been developed for new ACOs to have quick access to capital for investments in infrastructure for care coordination. Recipients are provided with upfront fixed payment, an upfront variable payment and a monthly payment of varying amounts dependent on the size of the ACO.(5)
Pioneer ACO model	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Launched 2012	Pioneer model is designed for organizations that have previous experience in care coordination. Participating organizations are paid through a shared savings payment, which provides higher levels of savings and risk for the ACO than is currently available in the MSSP model on performance.(4-6)

References

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3. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. The Alternative Quality Contract 2010 [Available from: <https://www.bluecrossma.com/visitor/pdf/alternative-quality-contract.pdf>.
4. Athena Health. ACO Models: An Overview [updated 20/01/2016. Available from: <http://www.athenahealth.com/knowledge-hub/aco/model>.
5. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Pioneer ACO Model Fact Sheet [updated Last updated on: 01/11/2016. Available from: <https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Pioneer-ACO-Model/PioneerACO-FactSheet.html>.
6. Hirsch JA, Leslie-Mazwi TM, Meyers PM, Nicola GN, Manchikanti L. Accountable care. Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery. 2015.