

# ACO types compared

ISSUE	Program start year	Advanced APM?*	Overview
TRACK 1	2012	No	MSSP ACO Tracks 1 and 2 were included in the original Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP). The program stems from the Affordable Care Act and is designed to enhance care coordination and cooperation among healthcare providers with the overall goals of improved quality and patient outcomes as well as lower costs.
TRACK 1+	2018	Yes	Track 1+ represents a new option for ACOs that will be available in 2018. This model includes elements of other tracks and represents a new two-sided risk model with less risk than Track 2, 3 or the Next Gen ACO model. Track 1+ is available for new ACOs and those in Track 1. ACOs in Track 1+ will concurrently participate in Track 1.
TRACK 2	2012	Yes	Same as Track 1
TRACK 3	2016	Yes	Track 3 was added to the MSSP beginning in 2016. This model takes successful aspects of the MSSP and Pioneer model to create a new MSSP Track with higher shared savings opportunities and greater risks.
Next generation ACO model	2016	Yes	Similar to the Pioneer Model but with higher potential rewards and risk than the MSSP Tracks. Next Gen aims to transition providers from fee-for-service to capitation. Next Gen ACOs must also move to operating under outcomes-based contracts with other purchasers.

\*Under Medicare payment reform, all ACOs are considered to be alternative payment model (APMs). ACOs that include downside financial risk for their members are designated as advanced alternative payment models, in which member practices are exempt from some or all quality reporting requirements. In addition, some practices in advanced APMs may qualify for a financial bonus equal to 5% of its Medicare Part B billings for the subsequent year.