

## **BENEFICIARY INFORMATION NOTICE: Your Doctor Is Participating in a Medicare Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organization**

### **Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs): Providing Better, Coordinated Care for You**

Your Doctor is participating in **St. Joseph Health Partners**, a Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO. An ACO is a group of doctors, hospitals, and/or other health care providers working together with Medicare to give you better, more coordinated service and health care. We share important information and resources about your individual needs and preferences.

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

**Your Medicare benefits are not 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 health care providers, but it's always your choice about what doctors and providers you use or hospitals you visit.

**Select Your Primary Clinician On MyMedicare.gov** As a Medicare beneficiary, you can log in to MyMedicare.gov and select your primary clinician. Your primary clinician is the health care provider that you believe is responsible for coordinating your overall care. Selecting a primary clinician does not affect your benefits or restrict your ability to get care from any doctor or other clinician you choose. Your selection of a primary clinician will remain the same unless you decide to change your designation. To select your primary clinician, log in to your MyMedicare.gov account or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Search for your primary clinician by typing their name into the provider search tool. Then select the "Add as my primary clinician" option under the provider's name.

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

To help St. Joseph Health Partners give you better, coordinated care, Medicare will share information with us about your care. The 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 from other health care providers will give **your doctor** and other health care providers in ACOs a more complete and up-to-date picture of your health. Over time, you may notice that you don't have to fill out as many medical forms that ask for the same information, you don't need to repeat medical tests because your results are shared among your health team, and other benefits because your providers are communicating with one another.

If you choose to let Medicare share your health care information with St. Joseph Health Partners, it may also be shared with other ACOs in which your other doctors or health care providers participate. If you don't want your health care information shared, you can ask Medicare not share it.

### **Your Privacy is Very Important to Us**

Just like Medicare, ACOs must put important safeguards in place to make sure all your health care information is safe. ACOs respect your choice on the use of your health care information for care coordination and quality improvement.

**Yes, share my information:** If you want Medicare to share information about the health care you received with St. Joseph Health Partners or with other ACOs in which your other doctors or health care providers participate, **there's nothing more you need to do.**

**No, please don't share my information:** If you do not want Medicare to share your health care information, you **need to** do the following:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Tell the representative that your doctor is part of an ACO and you do not want Medicare to share your health care information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- If you change your mind in the future, call 1-800-MEDICARE and tell the representative what you have decided. We can't communicate with Medicare on your behalf. Even if you decline to share your health care information, Medicare will still use your information for some purposes, like assessing the financial and quality of care performance of the providers participating in ACOs. Also, Medicare may share some of your health care information with ACOs when measuring the quality of care given by health care providers participating in those ACOs.

**Questions?** If you have questions or concerns, call us at 979-774-2101, or we can discuss them next time you're in our office. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE and tell the representative you're calling to learn more about ACOs, or visit [Medicare.gov/acos.html](https://www.medicare.gov/acos.html).