

# Resources for ACOs: The Final Rule and New Opportunities

November 2011

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its final rule for Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) on October 20. In the final rule, CMS made significant changes to entice providers to participate in the Medicare Shared Savings Program. On the heels of this release, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey and Strategic Health Care hosted the webinar "[ACOs: The Final Rule and New Opportunities](#)" to discuss these changes.

Speakers included Squire Sanders partners [John M. Kirsner](#) and [Peter A. Pavarini](#), as well as Strategic Health Care's [Paul Lee](#) and [Marian Lowe](#).

Topics addressed at the webinar included:

- ACO organization and governance
- New opportunities for rural and small community providers to create or join ACO
- Advanced funding of ACO start-up costs
- Antitrust requirements
- CMS and Office of the Inspector General waivers
- Financial/risk sharing: insurance law implications
- Improvements to the shared savings rate
- Lower barriers to entry on quality and electronic health record (EHR) metrics

A [recording](#) of the combined audio and visual presentation materials, as well as a [PDF](#) of the presentation PowerPoint slides are now available online. The related material below provides additional key information about the ACO regulations:



The Squire Sanders [Accountable Care Forum](#) provides news and analysis from some of the top experts in the United States regarding the impact of the ACO federal regulations. View the blog for an examination of the centerpiece of recent health care reform legislation affecting physicians and subscribe to receive updates on ACO developments.

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## Related Services

**Health Care**

- [Table of Contents – 42 C.F.R. Part 425](#) (PDF)
- [ACO Final Rule – 76 F.R. 67802](#) (Nov. 2, 2011) (PDF)
- [FTC and DOJ Final ACO Policy Statement – 76 F.R. 67026](#) (Oct. 28, 2011) (PDF)
- [Internal Revenue Bulletin 2011-20](#) (PDF)
- [IFR ACO Waiver – 76 F.R. 67922](#) (Nov. 2, 2011) (PDF)
- [ACOs – Shared Savings Program Final Rule Summary](#) (PDF)

For further information about the ACO final rule or its application, please contact one of the contacts listed in this publication, your principal Squire Sanders lawyer or any of our [health care lawyers](#).

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