ASM for heart failure

Ambulatory Specialty Model–CMS Mandatory Model

Effective January 1, 2027

The Ambulatory Specialty Model (ASM) is a mandatory CMS payment model that establishes clinician-level accountability for selected cardiologists for their ouptatient management of heart failure, with the goal of reducing preventable hospitalizations and improving patient outcomes. Reimbursement adjustments are determined by individual performance benchmarked against peer clinicians.

MODEL GOALS

- Strengthen chronic disease management in the outpatient setting
- Reduce preventable, acute cardiovascular hospitalizations
- Improve patient-reported outcomes and care experience

KEY DATES

PERFORMANCE PERIOD
2027–2031

FULL RISK PHASE
By 2033

±9% Medicare Part B Adjustment 2029

±12% Medicare Part B Adjustment 2033

WHY ASM MATTERS

ASM is a two-sided risk model – performance directly determines future Medicare Part B reimbursement. Adjustments are calculated relative to peer benchmarks, making proactive quality improvement essential.

CLINICIAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Acute unplanned CV-related hospital admissions
- Beta-blocker therapy in LVSD patients
- ACEi / ARB / ARNI use in LVSD patients
- Blood pressure control
- Functional status assessments
- Total cost of care

These measures reinforce adherence to guideline-directed medical therapy (GDMT) and drive meaningful, patient-centered clinical outcomes.

CARDIOLOGISTS SHOULD FOCUS ON

- Early identification of worsening heart failure
- Consistent use of GDMT
- Tight blood pressure management
- Routine functional status assessments
- Seamless coordination of care
- Effective use of EHR technology

LEARN MORE

Scan for full model details and implementation resources at the CMS ASM website.

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ASM Connect

A National Resource for Cardiologists Navigating the CMS Ambulatory Specialty Model for Heart Failure

ASM Connect is a national membership network purpose-built to help cardiologists, health systems, and accountable care organizations build the infrastructure and expertise needed to succeed under the CMS ASM for Heart Failure. Membership is complimentary for eligible clinicians, health systems, and ACOs.

WHAT ASM CONNECT PROVIDES

- **Complimentary Membership**
  Open to clinicians, health systems, and ACOs at no cost
- **Value-Based Care Readiness Tools**
  Practical resources to prepare for two-sided Medicare Part B risk
- **Peer Learning Community**
  Shared learning among specialists, ACOs, CINs, and medical groups
- **Educational Webinars and Expert Insights**
  Forums and peer-reviewed content on ASM requirements and best practices

WHO BENEFITS

- ○ **Cardiologists and Specialist Clinicians**
- ○ **Medical Group and Health System Administrators**
- ○ **ACO and CIN Leaders and Administrators**

LEARN MORE

Scan to visit ASM Connect for more information and to register as a member

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