

Are you a hospital outpatient department, physician practice or free-standing clinic providing radiation therapy services?

If you answered 'yes' and you're within these [ZIP codes](#), you will be required to adopt the new Radiation Oncology Model (RO Model) starting Jan. 1, 2022.

RO Model impact on the future of value-based care

This new model, designed to improve the quality of care for cancer patients receiving radiotherapy, will require providers to transition from fee-for-service to prospective, episode-based payments that are based on a patient's cancer diagnosis.

Providers must begin planning for this mandatory model now. Follow these steps to ensure compliance with the new billing guidelines, quality measures and clinical reporting requirements:

STEP 1

CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION

Thirty percent of all radiation oncologists in the U.S. will be impacted by this model. Prospective participants include hospital outpatient departments, physician group practices and free-standing clinics providing radiation therapy services. Mandatory participation is randomized by core-based statistical areas. Check your status [here](#).



STEP 2

IDENTIFY A TEAM

Effective planning will require the formation of a governance team. This team should include administrative leaders and those in finance, quality, information technology and population health roles to assist with different components of the RO Model.



STEP 3

REVIEW BILLING REQUIREMENTS

Your team should review the new billing codes and modifiers used to indicate the start and end of the cancer episode which initiates the prospective payment. Your team must understand the financial implications of the two-part prospective payment to ensure compliance with billing guidelines and minimize billing errors.



STEP 4

REVIEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Your team should review the four quality measures and clinical data reporting requirements to ensure successful performance in the program. The four quality measures are:

- **Oncology: Medical and Radiation – Plan of Care for Pain**
- **Treatment Summary Communication – Radiation Oncology**
- **Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan**
- **Advance Care Plan**

RO Model participants are also required to submit clinical data elements for the approved cancer types.

For more information on these quality measures and clinical reporting guidelines, visit [CMS' RO Model Quality Measure and Clinical Data Element Collection and Submission Guide](#).



STEP 5

ASSESS CURRENT CAPABILITIES

Your team will need to audit your current capabilities to ensure accurate documentation, performance improvement efforts and accessible reports to meet RO Model requirements.



STEP 6

IMPLEMENT CHANGES

Providers may need to implement new documentation into workflows to support reporting requirements and payment monitoring. Payment monitoring is needed to ensure episodes fulfill the professional and technical components of the RO Model to avoid an incomplete payment.



STEP 7

MONITOR PAYMENT AND QUALITY SCORE

RO Model payment is determined based on a national proposed base rate by cancer type, trend factors and adjustments for each participant's case mix, historical experience and geographic location.

Participants have an opportunity to earn back payment withholds at reconciliation based on clinical data reporting, quality measure performance and patient experience.



Need help getting started?

Contact DataGen for help simplifying the complexities of mandatory alternative payment models and optimizing financial and quality performance. Our RO Model services include:

- **Claims data analysis:** We automate and enrich processes for claims data to meet the prospective bundled payment model rules.
- **Data analytics:** We provide a flexible data analytics tool to visualize patterns of utilization, payment and outcomes in the context of the RO Model.
- **Payment monitoring:** We check CMS reconciliation calculations to identify potential errors that can impact RO Model reimbursement.

CONTACT

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About DataGen

For more than 20 years, DataGen has been an essential partner to healthcare organizations across the country, illustrating the financial implications of payment policy changes and promoting a pragmatic view of how changes will affect revenue and profitability.

DataGen provides data analytic support to hospitals, health systems, state hospital associations, and other healthcare groups across the nation as they strive to improve quality, outcomes and financial performance.

Drawing on specialized health policy and payment expertise, as well as an in-depth understanding of the power of analytics to drive change, DataGen simplifies the complexities of healthcare payment change.