Shadow Bundles:
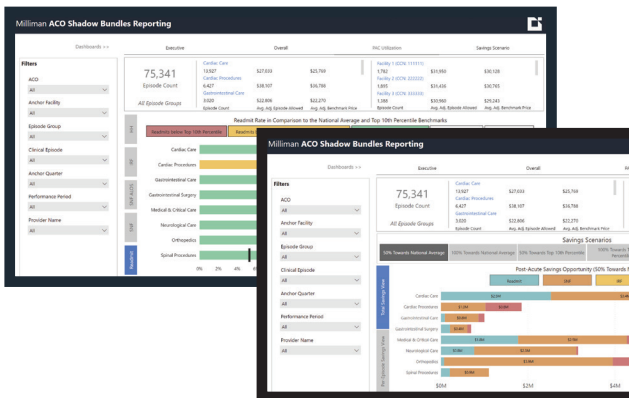## A big opportunity for MSSP and REACH ACOs

Data provided to accountable care organizations (ACOs) in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and ACO Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) models can provide opportunities for managing hospital and specialist referrals.

How can MSSP and ACO REACH participants leverage shadow bundles data?

The CMS shadow bundles data can provide ACOs insight into hospital and individual specialist performance within their attributed populations. This data can be very powerful in considering hospital referral and specialist partnership strategies as ACOs work to reduce the total cost of care of their attributed populations.

What are shadow bundles?

Shadow bundles are a type of bundled payment that is built within an ACO's attributed population. A bundled payment is a fixed-price agreement for a predefined episode of care, commonly consisting of a procedure and all related services or all care for a medical condition.

What shadow bundle data will MSSP AND ACO REACH participants receive?

The shadow bundles data being shared with ACOs in the MSSP and ACO REACH models is informational only and will not impact shared savings. Model participants will receive three types of data files with varying frequency and detail:

Monthly episode-level files:

Monthly episode and claims-level files for all shadow bundles initiated by the ACOs attributed beneficiaries.

Quarterly summary reports:

Quarterly summary files of the monthly claims and episode data files that are intended to require no data manipulation from the user.

Annual benchmark prices:

Annual summary report with prospective benchmark prices by clinical episode, with adjustments for the reporting year's payment rates.

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