



About APG's Standards of Excellence™ (SOE®) Survey

APG's Standards of Excellence™ (SOE®) is an annual, comprehensive survey that serves as a blueprint for accountable physician organizations to build infrastructure and operations that meet the escalating patient needs and payor demands in a risk-bearing environment. The survey effectively assesses physician groups' readiness to take on greater financial risk and clinical accountability.

APG's SOE® survey has become **an industry standard** for evaluating the level of sophistication of accountable physician practices and organizations, and there is no other comparable "implementation playbook" analogous to the SOE® for value-based care. It is also one of the only tools that enables physician groups to benchmark their accountable care capabilities against peers and that helps to demonstrate how APG members are responding to sustainable health care reform.

APG's 2024 Standards of Excellence™ Survey

In 2024, 119 medical groups, health systems, ACOs, and IPAs participated in the SOE. These organizations were collectively accountable for the care of **nearly 28 million patients** under Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, and commercial coverage.

Key insights include:

- **Plurality of groups have high engagement rate with CMS/CMMI Advanced Payment Models:** 35 percent of respondents are in Medicare Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organizations, and 40 percent are in one or more CMMI demonstration models.
- **Strong commitment to value-based care:** Majority of respondents derive greater than half of their revenues from value-based arrangements.
- **Tying value to physician compensation:** Nearly all participating organizations tie a percentage of physician compensation to performance, with 70-75 percent of participants offering 10 percent or higher potential bonus or performance-based rewards as part of total compensation for individual practitioners caring for patients under managed care.
- **Patient-centered care delivery:** Over 90 percent provide Complex Care Management (CCM) and integrated behavioral health services, including tele-behavioral health.

APG paused the Standards of Excellence™ survey for 2025 while we evaluated how best to update the survey design to optimize efficiency and data collection in 2026 and beyond. See further details on our updated survey for 2026. For questions about past surveys, please reach out to cmo@apg.org.

More Details About the Survey:

The survey covers five domains, which are scored:

1. **Population Health Management:** Clinical system supports that enhance the quality and efficiencies of care of attributed patient populations.
2. **Health Information Technology:** Systems and technology that enable timely and actionable information for patient engagement, service access, and coordinated care.
3. **Accountability and Transparency:** Processes that support practice and physician performance and reporting, regulatory compliance, and resource use optimization.
4. **Patient-Centered Care:** Capabilities that promote effective patient communications and delivery of accessible, high-quality care.
5. **Advanced Primary Care:** Essential investments in practice innovations and for building sustainable, team-based primary care.

A star is awarded in each domain when the physician organization exceeds the annually adjusted benchmark threshold in that domain. Summary results of domains 1-5 are publicly reported with the consent of participating physician organizations.

To review previous year's SOE® surveys and Star Chart results, please visit the SOE webpage: <https://www.apg.org/education/education-programs/standards-of-excellence/>.

(You will need your APG member website login credentials. Please contact Norma Springsteen at Nspringsteen@apg.org, if you require assistance with online access.)