

# ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Introduction to the Health Policy Commission’s Learning, Equity, and Patient-Centeredness Standards for Accountable Care Organization Certification

## INTRODUCTION TO THE HPC’S ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Since its inception in 2017, the HPC’s Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Certification Program has established all-payer standards for care delivery and provided information to the public on the structures and operations of these organizations. Through these standards, the HPC seeks to promote continued transformation in care delivery across multiple markets (Medicare, commercial, MassHealth) while ensuring that certification is within reach of provider organizations of varying sizes, experience, organizational models, infrastructure and technical capabilities, populations served, and locations. The purpose of the HPC ACO Certification program is to complement existing local and national care transformation and payment reform efforts, encourage value-based care delivery, and promote investments by all payers in high-quality and cost-effective care across the continuum. In 2021, the HPC made its first significant update to the ACO Certification standards. Sixteen ACOs were certified in 2022 under the updated standards, known as the ACO Learning, Equity, and Patient-Centeredness (LEAP) 2022-23 standards.



**16**  
ACOs



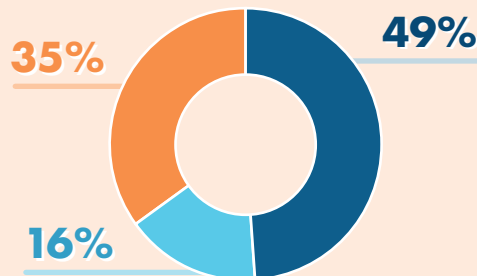
**97**  
Risk Contracts



**3.01M**  
ACO Covered Lives

### ACO Covered Lives by Contract Type

- COMMERCIAL
- MEDICAID
- MEDICARE



## HPC-CERTIFIED ACOS

- ATRIUS HEALTH, INC.
- BAYCARE HEALTH PARTNERS, INC.
- BERKSHIRE HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
- BETH ISRAEL LAHEY HEALTH PERFORMANCE NETWORK
- BMC HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.
- CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE
- CHILDREN’S MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION
- COMMUNITY CARE COOPERATIVE, INC.
- MASS GENERAL BRIGHAM
- RELIANT MEDICAL GROUP, INC.
- SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE
- SOUTHCOAST HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.
- STEWARD HEALTH CARE NETWORK, INC.
- TRINITY HEALTH OF NEW ENGLAND
- TUFTS MEDICINE
- UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH, INC.

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## OVERVIEW OF THE LEAP STANDARDS

The LEAP standards for the ACO Certification Program, first implemented by the HPC in 2021, build on the HPC's previous standards to position the ACO model as a catalyst for learning and improvement among health care organizations. They encourage ACOs to pursue evidence-based and data-driven strategies to improve care delivery while emphasizing three key themes:



### LEARNING

The ACO LEAP standards recognize structures, processes, and approaches conducive to learning effectively from experiences over time, consistent with the "Learning Health System" framework developed by the National Academy of Medicine.



### EQUITY

ACOs have an important role to play as partners in ensuring that everyone in the Commonwealth can attain their full health potential. The ACO LEAP standards elevate this important opportunity by requiring a description of the ACOs' health equity efforts.



### PATIENT-CENTEREDNESS

The ACO LEAP framework emphasizes ACO commitments and approaches to hearing patient voices and understanding their preferences and needs. Implementing interventions to meet those patient needs and preferences continues to be a core function of ACOs.

## WHAT IS AN HPC-CERTIFIED ACO?

ACOs are groups of physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers who come together to provide patient-centered, coordinated patient care with the goal of improving quality and reducing health care spending growth.

