

Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following are acronyms and abbreviations with a brief explanation, which appear in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

ACO – Accountable care organization

Act (the Act or this Act) – Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

AHRQ – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responsible for improving the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care

CAN – Cures Acceleration Network

CBO – Congressional Budget Office

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that provides expertise and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, and preparedness for health threats

CHIP – Children’s Health Insurance Program

CHIPRA – Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009

CLASS Program – Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Program

CMI – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

CMS – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that administers the Medicare program and works with states to administer Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and health insurance portability standards

Comptroller General – Comptroller General of the United States, head of the General Accountability Office (GAO)

CO-OP – Consumer-Operated and -Oriented Plan

DRG – Diagnosis-related group, a system for classifying hospital patients for the Medicare prospective payment system

DSH – Disproportionate Share Hospital, designation for funding program for hospitals that treat a significant number of low-income patients

Exchange – American Health Benefit Exchange

FDA – United States Food and Drug Administration, agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responsible for assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of drugs, biological products, medical devices, the food supply, and cosmetics, and regulating tobacco products

FEHBP – Federal Employees Health Benefit Program

FMAP – Federal medical assistance percentage, rate used to determine federal matching funds for certain medical and social service programs, including Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

FQHC – Federally Qualified Health Center

FSA – Flexible spending arrangement

GAO – Government Accountability Office, an independent, nonpartisan agency that supports Congress by investigating how federal funds are spent

HHS – United States Department of Health and Human Services, federal department responsible for protecting the health of Americans and providing essential human services

HIT – Health information technology

HSA – Health savings account

HRA – Health reimbursement arrangement

HRSA – Health Resources and Services Administration, agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responsible for improving access to health care services for uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable people

Inspector General – Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), a position and office within HHS charged to protect the integrity of HHS programs and the health and welfare of program beneficiaries

IRS – Internal Revenue Service, federal agency responsible for tax collection and enforcement of tax law

MA – Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare benefits provided through a private health insurance company

MA-PD Plan – Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan

MACPAC – Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment Access Commission

MedPAC – Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

MSA – Medical savings account

MTM – Medication therapy management

NIH – National Institutes of Health, agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for medical research

NMHC – Nurse-managed health clinic

PBM – Pharmacy benefits management services

PPS – Prospective payment system

SDRP – Self-referral disclosure protocol

Secretary – Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

SHOP Exchange – Small Business Health Options Program

SNP program – Special needs plans program, a program to provide Medicare Advantage plans to individuals with special needs