

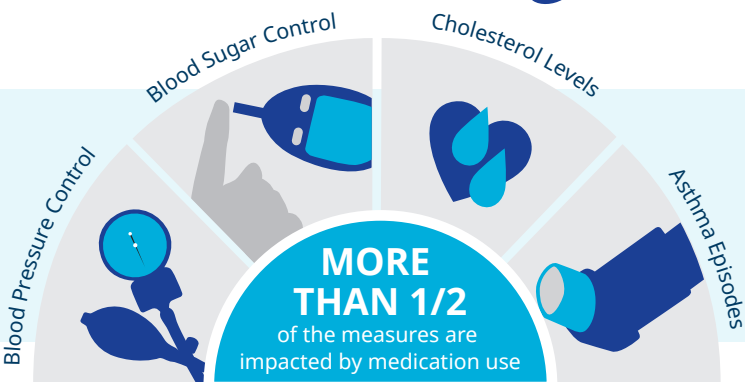
An **ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION (ACO)** is a group of health care providers who work to deliver coordinated care and are collectively accountable for the cost and quality of care.



**ACOs HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO** improve the quality of care and lower costs.



To show success,  
**ACOs MUST REPORT ON SPECIFIC QUALITY MEASURES.**



**...BUT,**  
are ACOs ready to use medications in achieving those goals?



Key indicators of ACO capabilities show the answer is **YES AND NO.**



*Yes, many ACOs can:*

- 70%** Send Rx electronically
- 54%** Merge medical & Rx data into one database
- 50%** Promote appropriate use of generics



*But many ACOs aren't:*

- 7%** Calculating cost offsets of medications
- 9%** Notifying a physician when a prescription is filled
- 17%** Using protocols to avoid medication duplication or polypharmacy
- 22%** Using quality metrics for a diversity of conditions

How are ACOs using medications to improve care and drive down costs?  
Stay tuned for a series of case studies to be published in  
the *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy*.

Source: Dubois RW, Feldman M, Lustig A, Kotzbauer G, Penso J, Pope SD, Westrich KD. Are ACOs Ready to be Accountable for Medication Use? *J Manag Care Pharm*. 2014;20(1):17-21.