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.*