

## Integrated Solutions Health Network pressing forward on ACO formation

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JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – Integrated Solutions Health Network (ISHN) has submitted an application to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the federal government’s Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) program. The application marks a major step in positioning Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia providers to participate in the emerging world of health care reform. ISHN’s accountable care organization will be known as AnewCare Collaborative. The organization will combine the experience and expertise of a wide range of health care providers throughout the region, including hospitals, doctors, pharmacies, laboratories, public health agencies, home health agencies and more.

After the 429-page CMS rulebook on ACOs was released earlier this year, many U.S. providers that had been considering ACO formation shied away from their plans, saying the proposed CMS structure put too much financial risk on hospitals and had overly prescriptive requirements that would make it difficult for ACOs to realize cost savings. In response to this pushback, CMS created the “Pioneer ACO” model, which offers a more appealing savings- and risk-sharing structure for organizations whose ACO plans are already reaching maturity.

“Regardless of how the federal government chooses to define it, the accountable care model is still the future of health care delivery, and the best option for patients, payers and providers,” said Dennis Vonderfecht, president and CEO of Mountain States Health Alliance, ISHN’s primary stakeholder. “The triple-aim of the ACO model – improving health, reducing cost and enhancing the patient experience – is a set of values MSHA has embraced for some time. The formation of an ACO allows us to put a structure to that commitment, and to partner on that mission with other providers and community stakeholders for the benefit of all patients in this region.”

Rob Slattery, president and CEO of ISHN, said, “We are one of about 30 groups across the nation pursuing a Pioneer ACO contract with the federal government. We believe AnewCare Collaborative is positioned to be a strong player in the national ACO market. We look forward to working with CMS to improve the quality of health care to benefit patients in our region.”

### About Integrated Solutions Health Network

Integrated Solutions Health Network is a regional health solutions company based in Johnson City, Tenn. Its primary stakeholder is Mountain States Health Alliance, a not-for-profit health care organization that operates a family of 13 hospitals serving a 29-county, four-state region in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Southeastern Kentucky and Western North Carolina. ISHN comprises community hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, orthotic/prosthetic providers, durable medical equipment providers, home health agencies, hospice, laboratories, rehabilitation facilities, ambulatory surgery centers and approximately 2,000 physicians, including primary care, specialists and allied health.