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**Contact:** Donna Doneski  
202.898.6321

## **SNF Role Critical to Success of New ACOs**

**Washington, DC** – The American Health Care Association (AHCA) is pleased that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), which offers some insight into how the agency believes new Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) can encourage a more cooperative approach from health care providers across care settings that focuses on care coordination to improve quality and the patient’s care experience, while decreasing costs.

AHCA believes that, properly structured, ACOs have the potential to improve patients’ health by delivering reliable access to quality care. Likewise, ACOs have the potential to at least control Medicare costs by reducing the number of unnecessary procedures or drug treatments; limiting, if not eliminating, dangerous drug interactions; facilitating access to needed care; and ensuring effective communication among all of the members of a patient’s clinical team. In order to achieve such ambitious goals, AHCA believes that skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) must be allowed to participate in ACOs.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The proposed rule has been placed on [display](#), and is expected to be published in the *Federal Register* on April 7, 2011. AHCA will provide comments to CMS before the 60-day comment period ends on June 6, 2011.