



# THE HERTEL REPORT

The Source that Connects the Arizona Healthcare Community

Volume 1004 No.2 March 2022  
The HerTEL Report - All Rights Reserved ©2022



**GOVERNOR DUCY DAVIS  
15-WEEK ABORTION BAN  
March 15, 2022**

## ACC-REACH MODEL

### First 15-week Abortion Ban & Equity

As the healthcare industry moves along from performance excellence, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is bringing the focus on value advanced payment models (VAM) while considering all available options.

In late February, CMS issued the Diagnostic Cost Contracting Model (DCC) Model. One of its key objectives was to announce the ACC-REACH (Access, Care, and Community Health) Model. The newly issued ACC-REACH model is an alternative to three existing contracts in the Medicare Shared Savings Program but will be implemented by fiscal year 2024 in the current Global and Professional Contract Contracting (GPC) Model and new Medicare Advantage network.

"Regarding current model participants, I think it's very important that those who meet the requirements of the ACC-REACH model also are participating today will be able to continue participating. We're committed to value based care. We believe the infrastructure investments made to date will continue to provide valuable benefits to Medicare beneficiaries and to the Medicare trust funds."

*Dr. John  
Duckert, Assistant  
Secretary*

As the official leader of those that make the health system better, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to keep an eye on GPC model participants. Access and quality metrics and the model will end on Dec. 31, 2022.

The Diagnostic Contracting program, and now the ACC-REACH program, new deliveries also continue to collect CMS's data. The program for a National Health Program and the American Medical Student Association, and a joint order to CMS Administrator Virginia Strickland allowing the agency to terminate the ACC-REACH model.



"Unfortunately, REACH means the most dangerous elements of Direct Contracting, and under the guise of promoting equity, provides more direct opportunities for providers to profit at the expense of beneficiaries and the Medicare Trust Fund. It allowed a contract REACH would completely transform Traditional Medicare by allowing third-party intermediaries to manage every case without concern for understanding or concern."

*Thomas J. Hirschman, Chief  
Executive Officer, American  
Medical Association*

Current GPC Model participants must agree to meet all model requirements by January 1, 2023, the first year for REACH-ACC.

Meanwhile, we will see another attempt to roll back Diagnostic Contracting (DCC).

#### ACC-REACH Model Goals

1. Promoting health equity and addressing historical health care disparities for underserved populations.
2. Expanding the number of providers participating in value-based contracts.
3. Promoting transparency and the model will incorporate writing, monitoring and goal transparency.

Single advanced health equity, the ACC-REACH Model requires participating ACCs to have a reduction in disparities from they will meet the needs of people with Traditional Medicare in underserved communities and make reasonable changes to address health disparities. Additionally, under the ACC-REACH Model, CMS will use an innovative payment approach to better support care delivery and incentives for people in underserved communities.

Continued on Page 2

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### Cases & Deaths Down in Arizona Physician Shortage Continues

March 20 marks the two-year mark of Governor Doug Ducey's executive order mandating the closure of certain businesses and a subsequent advisory for all businesses. Following three major surges of COVID-19 in just one year, Arizona has ended the Governor's order with the second highest COVID-19 death rate in the country, while also suffering a depletion of healthcare workers.

We learn about two months since Arizona's case in cases during the first surge in January but its momentum in addressing the case of the last six months as nearly 5,000 people in Arizona have lost their lives to COVID-19. The state's health reported nearly 4,000 deaths. Phoenix County about 1,000 deaths.

## TOTAL ARIZONA DEATHS FROM COVID-19

25,290

### DEATH BY AGE

0-14 0%

15-24 0%

25-34 0%

35-44 0%

45-54 0%

55-64 0%

65-74 1%

75-84 1%

85-94 1%

95+ 1%

Source: CDC, March 15, 2022

White, Non-Hispanic 64%

Hispanic or Latino 24%

American Indian/Alaska  
Native 0%

Native Hawaiian 0%

Black or African American 10% Hispanic 1%

Asian 1%

Other 1%

Men 50%  
Women 49%

