Accountable Care Organization – What is it and what does it look like?

BY MARIE HOOPER

Medicare has defined an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) as a group of doctors, hospitals and other health care providers who come together voluntarily to give coordinated, high-quality care to their Medicare patients. The goal of coordinated care is to ensure that patients, especially the chronically ill, get the right care at the right time, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and prevent-