



**Department
of Health**

Maternity Care Value Based Payment Arrangement

Measurement Year 2019 Fact Sheet



Maternity Care Value Based Payment Arrangement

This fact sheet has been prepared to assist payers and providers to more thoroughly understand New York State's Medicaid Maternity Care Value Based Payment (VBP) Arrangement. It provides an overview of the Arrangement including a summary of the components of care, the underlying episodes of care and the categories of measures recommended for use in Maternity Care Arrangements.

Introduction

The Maternity Care Arrangement is designed to allow maternity care providers to focus on integrated prenatal, delivery, postpartum and newborn care for mothers and babies. Quality measures related to each of these stages of care help to reinforce the care connections built into the Arrangement and provide a standardized set of measures for maternity care providers statewide. Measures for the Arrangement include, for example, rates of postpartum complications, cesarean sections (C-Sections), pre-term births and low-birth weight in newborns.

Providers have the opportunity for shared savings if they focus on evidence-based and guideline-driven interventions that lead to improved maternal care and newborn outcomes, including: health education, increased uptake of prenatal care, pre- and inter-conception counseling, appropriate C-Section rates and resource utilization, improved screening rates for postpartum depression, and evidence-informed home visits.

By creating a dedicated, all-inclusive budget for pregnancy, delivery, early postpartum and newborn care, maternity providers can develop new insights into practice variation, those factors leading to higher cost and poorer quality care. Providers can drive quality improvements through the integration and standardization of care, increasing cost-effectiveness for both mothers and babies. The Maternity Care Arrangement also provides an impetus to streamline the continuum of maternity care, which can be overlooked in larger scale, population-based healthcare initiatives. Finally, attention to early health and developmental outcomes of newborns will help improve the well-being of the next generation of New Yorkers, potentially curbing future Medicaid costs.

This fact sheet provides an overview of New York State (NYS) Medicaid's Maternity Care VBP Arrangement and is organized into three sections:

- Section 1 describes the types of care included in the Maternity Care Arrangement and the method used to construct the episodes of care;
- Section 2 describes the quality measure selection process and the categories of measures recommended for use in Maternity Care Arrangements; and,
- The Appendix contains a glossary of terms used in this document.

Section 1: Defining the Maternity Care Arrangement Episodes of Care

The Maternity Care Arrangement: Three Distinct Components of Care

The Maternity Care Arrangement creates a comprehensive, integrated view of maternity care from “womb to crib,” through three distinct components of care. Each component of the Arrangement consists of

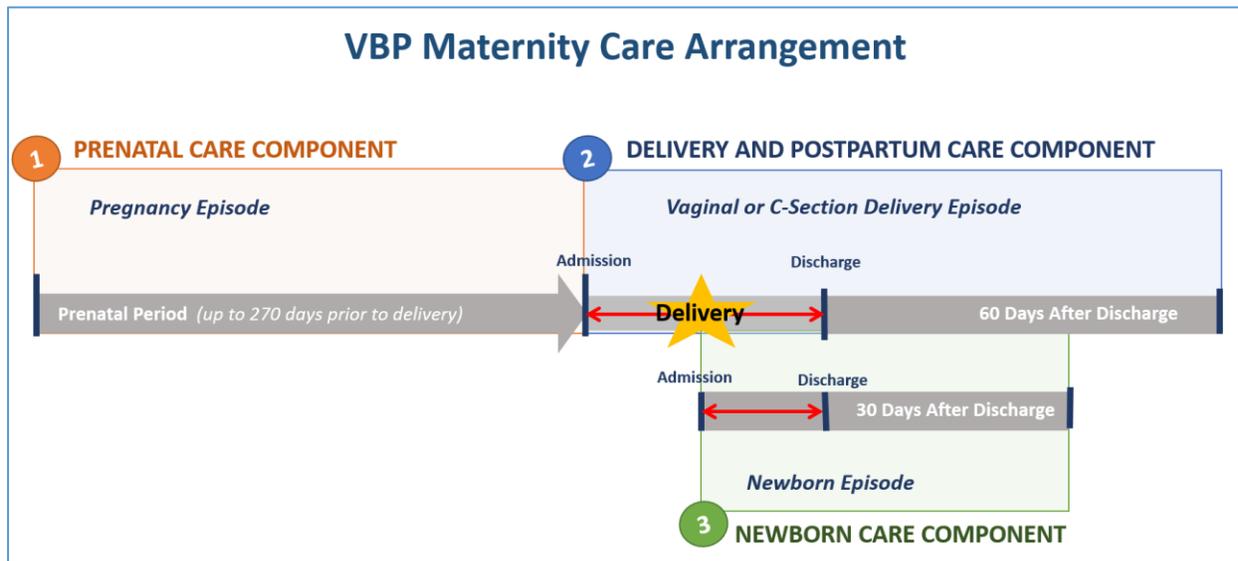
episodes of care, or groups of clinically related services, provided by physicians, midwives, and ancillary providers delivering care to mothers and newborns across multiple settings during a defined period.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the Maternity Care Arrangement consists of the following three components of care:

1. Prenatal Care, which consists of a single episode (the Pregnancy Episode);
2. Delivery and Postpartum Care, which consists of a single episode (either the Vaginal or C-Section Delivery Episode); and
3. Newborn Care, which consists of a single episode (the Newborn Episode).

Together, these three components of care reflect the prenatal care delivered up to 270 days prior to the admission associated with delivery (the Pregnancy Episode), the care provided to the mother from inpatient admission for delivery through 60 days after discharge (the Delivery Episode), and the care provided to the newborn from birth to 30 days after discharge (the Newborn Episode).

Figure 1: VBP Maternity Care Arrangement



Constructing the Maternity Care Arrangement Episodes: Trigger Events, Time Windows and Services

The episodes of care included in the Maternity Care Arrangement are constructed using a set of rules based on the PROMETHEUS Analytics system (the grouper). The grouper governs what “triggers” or signals the existence of an episode, the logic describing when the episode begins and ends (the time window), and the services to be grouped to form the complete episode.

The Maternity Care Arrangement is driven by the delivery event, which triggers the process of identifying, linking, and constructing the episodes within the three components of care. The components of the Arrangement provide a view of the events which occurred prior to delivery, along with outcomes of the delivery and subsequent care. The procedure codes for delivery (Vaginal or C-Section Delivery) are considered “trigger codes” for the pregnancy and delivery episodes of care, and the first newborn claim triggers the newborn episode. This initiates a review of claims from the components of maternal and newborn care to construct the episodes based on clinically relevant services.



The section below summarizes the logic for the episodes of care within the three components of the Maternity Care Arrangement, including the trigger events, time windows and included service parameters for each episode. A more detailed review of the episode construction rules, definitions and code sets is available on the Altarum Institute's website.¹

It is important to note that the time frame for the completion of the episodes of care within the Arrangement may span across contract years. The delivery episode completion date will determine the year for which the three components of care will be counted. Episodes may include services delivered in the year prior or subsequent to the contract year, consistent with the defined look-back or look-forward time periods as outlined in the figures below. Further, in order for a delivery and the associated components of care to be included in the Arrangement, each episode must be completed as described below.

The Underlying Episodes of the Maternity Care Arrangement

Prenatal Care Component

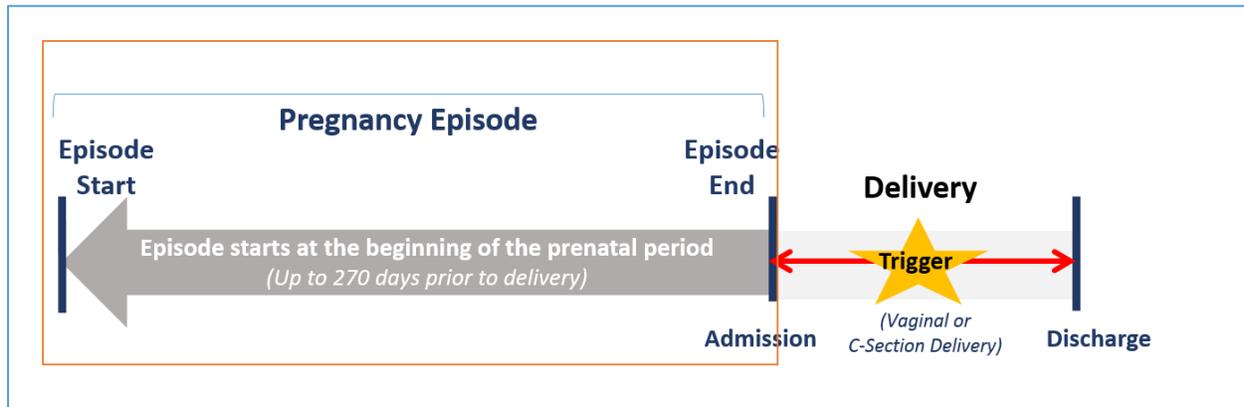
The Prenatal Care component of the Maternity Care Arrangement includes one episode, called the Pregnancy Episode, which specifically targets prenatal care services.

Pregnancy Episode

- The Pregnancy Episode is triggered by the delivery (procedure codes for Vaginal or C-Section delivery), which serves as an indication that a pregnancy occurred for the delivering mother.
- The Pregnancy Episode time window includes a look back window of 270 days prior to the admission for the delivery, to capture all prenatal care services delivered from the beginning of the pregnancy to the admission for delivery.
- The Pregnancy Episode includes all prenatal care services such as office visits, laboratory tests, and ultrasound examinations, as well as any medications and pregnancy-related hospital admissions and complications up to delivery.
- The Pregnancy Episode will be considered complete with the delivery, which is considered the terminating or final event to close the Episode.

¹ Details on episode of care definitions and PROMETHEUS Analytics, including information on associated diagnostic and procedure codes, are available on the PROMETHEUS Analytics website ([Link](#)).

Figure 2: Pregnancy Episode Example



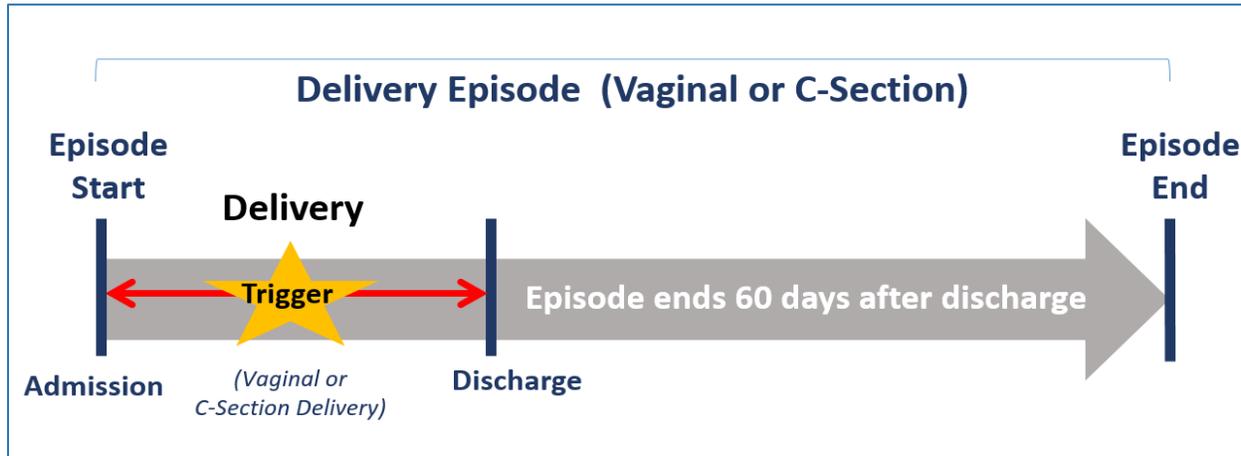
Delivery and Postpartum Care Component

The Delivery and Postpartum Care component of the Maternity Care Arrangement, known as the Delivery Episode (either Vaginal or C-Section Delivery), specifically targets services provided to the mother during the inpatient admission for delivery and the postpartum maternal care provided during the hospital stay and up to 60 days after discharge from the hospital.

Delivery Episode (Vaginal or C-Section Delivery)

- The Delivery Episode (Vaginal or C-Section Delivery) is triggered by the procedure codes indicating either a Vaginal or C-Section delivery.
- The time window for the Delivery Episode begins at admission for the delivery and extends to 60 days after discharge of the mother from the hospital. The Episode includes all relevant services provided to the mother during this time window, including services provided during the inpatient stay for the delivery, as well as for postpartum care.
- The Delivery Episode (Vaginal or C-Section Delivery) is considered complete 60 days after discharge of the mother from the hospital.

Figure 3: Delivery Episode Example



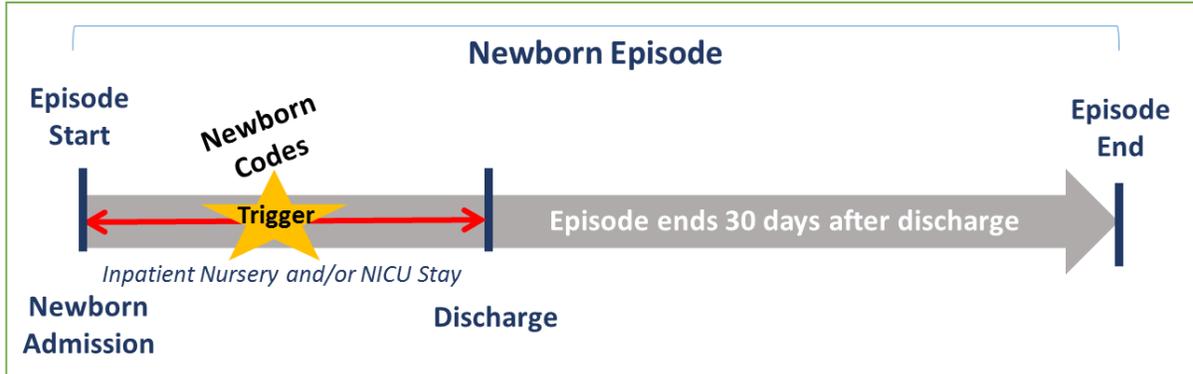
Newborn Care Component

The Newborn Care component of the Maternity Care Arrangement includes one episode, called the Newborn Episode, that specifically targets services provided to the newborn from birth, including the inpatient nursery and/or neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) stay, up to 30 days after discharge from the hospital.

Newborn Episode

- The Newborn Episode is triggered by newborn diagnosis codes indicating a baby has been born either by vaginal delivery or C-Section.
- The Episode begins with the first service provided for the newborn as indicated by the initial Medicaid claim. The episode time window extends from this initial service to 30 days after discharge from the hospital for the newborn. All services provided to the newborn during the episode time window, including services during the inpatient stay, such as neonatal intensive care unit services, laboratory or diagnostic tests and professional services (e.g. neonatologist and Primary Care Physician (PCP) services), are included in the Newborn Episode.
- The episode is considered complete at the close of the time window, 30 days after discharge from the hospital.

Figure 4: Newborn Episode Example



Patient and Episode Eligibility

While the delivery is the triggering event for the Maternity Care Arrangement, not all deliveries occurring during the contract year will be included. Deliveries included in the Arrangement must meet the following requirements.

1. **Covered Deliveries:** All deliveries covered by Medicaid Managed Care, as well as the associated prenatal, postpartum and newborn care, are eligible for inclusion in the Maternity Care Arrangement, with the following exceptions:
 - **Age:** Medicaid mothers younger than 12 or older than 64 at the time of the delivery are excluded;
 - **Maternal Death:** Deliveries resulting in the death of the mother are excluded, along with the associated prenatal care and care for the surviving newborn;
 - **Stillborn and Multiple Live Births:** Deliveries resulting in stillborn or multiple live births are excluded from the Maternity Care Arrangement;
 - **Medicaid patients for whom Medicaid is not the sole payer:** Medicaid patients with claims or encounters for which Medicaid is not the sole payer are excluded (e.g. dually eligible populations and patients with Medicaid as payer of last resort on commercial premium); and,
 - **Patients eligible for inclusion under a VBP Subpopulation Arrangement:** Patients eligible for inclusion under the HIV/AIDS, Health and Recovery Plan (HARP), Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) or Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) VBP Subpopulation Arrangements are excluded.
2. **Deliveries associated with three complete episodes:** Deliveries must be associated with a complete Pregnancy (unless no prenatal care occurred),² Delivery (Vaginal or C-Section Delivery), and Newborn Episode to be included in the Maternity Care Arrangement. For example, a delivery and the care components will not be included in the Arrangement until completion of the 60-day, maternal post-discharge period associated with the Delivery Episode time window, even if both the Pregnancy and the Newborn Episodes are complete.

² Patient receipt of prenatal care services is not a requirement for the construction and completion of a Pregnancy Episode. In the case of a delivery occurring for a mother who received no prenatal care, the delivery indicates that the pregnancy condition exists, triggering construction of the Pregnancy Episode. If no claims for prenatal care services are returned during the Pregnancy Episode time window, then the Episode will be closed as complete with a total cost for the Pregnancy Episode of \$0.



Patient Attribution

State guidance for attribution recommends that the episodes within the Maternity Care Arrangement be attributed to the obstetrician or midwife who provides the plurality of the prenatal care.³ This is determined by identification of the delivering physician or midwife associated with the greatest number of Evaluation and Management (E&M) visits for prenatal care prior to delivery. In the case of a tie (two providers having the same number of qualifying E&M visits), the delivery and the three associated components of the Maternity Care Arrangement will be attributed to the provider associated with the higher cost of care.

In cases where there is no obstetrician or midwife identified as the billing provider for prenatal care services, the delivery and three associated components of care will be attributed to the provider performing the delivery procedure.

VBP Contractors and the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) can adopt standards for attribution in their contracts not in alignment with the guidance above, so long as the contract receives State approval for meeting VBP contracting requirements.

Calculation of Episode Costs

Once the Maternity Care Arrangement episodes of care have been constructed, the costs (defined as the total amount paid by the Medicaid MCO for services) associated with each of the episodes will be combined to produce a total cost of care for the Maternity Care Arrangement. The aggregate costs can be further analyzed to identify and understand variation across the underlying episodes and by service type, leading to opportunities for improvement in quality of care and resource use.

Stop-Loss and High-Cost Components of the Maternity Care Arrangement

Certain factors, such as a neonatal intensive care unit admission for a newborn, can easily skew the cost of the Newborn Care Component of the Arrangement, exposing providers to excessive risk. To help mitigate this risk, VBP Contractors in the Maternity Care Arrangement should consider adding stop-loss provisions to their contracts to exclude episodes of care with a total cost above a certain threshold.

Section 2: VBP Quality Measure Set for the Maternity Care Arrangement

The 2019 Maternity Care Quality Measure Set was created in collaboration with the Maternity Clinical Advisory Group (CAG). Measures recommended by the CAG were submitted to the Department of Health (DOH) for further feasibility review and, ultimately, to the VBP Workgroup responsible for overall VBP design and final approval. During the final review process, the Maternity Care Quality Measure Set was aligned with existing measures in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program, the State's Vital Statistics maternity care measures, Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (QARR) measures, and measures utilized by Medicare and Commercial programs in NYS where appropriate. The measures were further categorized as Category 1, 2, or 3 based on reliability, validity, and feasibility, and by suggested use as either Pay-for-Reporting (P4R) or Pay-for-Performance (P4P).

³ Provider specialty is based on the provider's specialty as registered in the National Plan & Provider Enumeration System (NPPES).



The Maternity Care Quality Measure Set is intended to encourage providers to meet high standards of patient-centered clinical care and coordination across multiple settings through pregnancy, delivery and the postpartum period, as well as for newborn care from birth to the first 30 days post-discharge.

Measure Categorization

In June 2016, NYS published the initial recommendations of the Maternity Care CAG regarding quality measures for use in Maternity Care VBP Arrangements and included a review of the types of data needed for the recommended measures. The report also addressed other implementation details related to VBP Maternity Care Arrangements. Upon receiving the CAG recommendations, the State conducted a further review of measure feasibility to define a final list of measures for use during the 2017 VBP Measurement Year (MY). Each measure was designated by the State as Category 1, 2, or 3 according to the following criteria:

- **CATEGORY 1** – Approved quality measures that are deemed to be clinically relevant, reliable, valid, and feasible;
- **CATEGORY 2** – Measures that are clinically relevant, valid and reliable but where the feasibility could be problematic. Some of these measures were further investigated during the 2017 & 2018 VBP Pilot programs; and,
- **CATEGORY 3** – Measures that are insufficiently relevant, valid, reliable and/or feasible.

Note that measure classification is a State recommendation. Although Category 1 Measures are required to be reported, plans and VBP Contractors can choose the measures they want to link to payment and how they want to pay on them (P4P or P4R) in their specific contracts.

Category 1

Category 1 quality measures, as identified by the Maternity CAG and accepted by the State, are to be reported by VBP Contractors. A subset of these measures is also intended to be used to determine the amount of shared savings for which VBP contractors would be eligible.⁴

The State has classified each Category 1 measure as either P4P or P4R:

- **P4P** measures are intended to be used in the determination of shared savings amounts for which VBP Contractors are eligible.⁵ In other words, these are the measures on which payments in VBP contracts may be based. Measures can be included in the determination of both the performance adjustment in the target budget and in the calculation of shared savings for VBP Contractors; and,
- **P4R** measures are intended to be used by Medicaid MCOs to incentivize VBP Contractors for reporting data to monitor quality of care delivered to patients under the VBP contract. Incentives for reporting should be based on timeliness, accuracy and completeness of data. Measures can be reclassified from P4R to P4P through annual CAG and State review or as determined by the Medicaid MCO and VBP Contractor.

Not all Category 1 measures will be reportable for Measurement Year 2019, as reporting on some of these measures will be phased in over the next few years. Please see the Value Based Payment Reporting Requirements Technical Specifications Manual for details as to which measures must be reported for the

⁴ New York State Department of Health, Medicaid Redesign Team, A Path toward Value Based Payment: Annual Update, November 2018: Year 2, New York State Roadmap for Medicaid Payment Reform, November 2018, p. 34. ([Link](#))

⁵ Ibid.



measurement year.⁶ This manual will be updated annually each Fall, in line with the release of the final VBP measure set for the subsequent measurement year.

Categories 2 and 3

Category 2 measures have been accepted by the State based on agreement of measure importance, validity, and reliability, but flagged as presenting concerns regarding implementation feasibility. The State required that VBP Pilots select and report a minimum of one Category 2 measure per VBP Arrangement for MY 2018 (or have a State and Plan approved alternative). VBP Pilot participants are expected to share meaningful feedback on the feasibility of Category 2 measures when the CAGs reconvene during the Annual Measure Review.

Measures designated as Category 3 were identified as unfeasible or as presenting additional concerns including validity or reliability when applied to the attributed patient population for the Maternity Care Arrangement. Several measures in the original CAG report were removed for small sample size at a VBP contractor level. Other measures removed had already demonstrated high performance at a statewide level and therefore are no longer in the Category 1 or 2 measure list. These Category 3 measures will not be tested in pilots or included in VBP Arrangements in 2019.

Annual Measure Review

Measure sets and classifications are considered dynamic and will be reviewed annually. Updates will include additions, deletions, recategorization, and reclassification from P4R to P4P or P4P to P4R, based on experience with measure implementation in the prior year. During 2019, the CAGs and the VBP Workgroup will reevaluate measures and provide recommendations for MY 2020. A full list of the 2019 Maternity Care measures is included in the NYS VBP Resource Library on the DOH web site.⁷

⁶ 2019 Value Based Payment Reporting Requirements; Technical Specifications Manual, Nov 2018. File is located in the Quality Measures section of the VBP Resource Library ([Link](#)).

⁷ NYS Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) - VBP Resource Library ([Link](#)).

Appendix 1: VBP Glossary

VBP Glossary

- **Diagnosis codes:** These are codes (as defined in the PROMETHEUS grouper) based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) that are used to group and categorize diseases, disorders, symptoms, etc. These codes help identify clinically related services to be included in the episode in conjunction with the relevant procedure codes. These codes may include trigger codes, signs and symptoms, and other related conditions and are used to steer services into an open episode.
- **Episode of Care:** An Episode of Care includes groups of clinically related services (as defined in the PROMETHEUS Analytics grouper) delivered by physicians and ancillary providers across multiple settings of care during a defined period.
- **Exclusions:** Some episodes have specific exclusion criteria, which are either exclusions from analysis and contracting based on clinical reasons or exclusions from eligibility for Medicaid.
- **Grouper: PROMETHEUS Analytics system.** The rules for each episode are programmed into an analytic tool that runs on claims data in a systematic fashion. The analytic program (the grouper) governs what starts or “triggers” an episode, the length of time an episode will run and the kinds of services that are grouped together to form the episode.
- **Included Service:** A service that is pulled into an episode by the PROMETHEUS Analytics system grouper is considered an included service.
- **Look Back & Look Forward:** From the point in which an episode is triggered, episode costs and volume are evaluated within the associated time window for a predetermined number of days before and after the trigger date. Costs, volume and other episode components that fall within this range are captured within the episode.
- **Procedure codes:** These are codes used to identify clinically-related services to be included in the episode in conjunction with the typical diagnosis codes. Procedure codes include International Classification of Diseases (ICD), Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes.
- **Time window:** This is the time that an episode is open for analytic purposes. It may include the trigger event, a look-back period and a look-forward period, and could extend based on rules and criteria.
- **Trigger code:** A trigger code assigns a time window for the start and end dates of each episode (depending on the episode type). Trigger codes can be ICD diagnosis or procedure codes, CPT codes or HCPCS codes, and could be present on an inpatient facility claim, an outpatient facility claim or a professional claim.
- **VBP Contractor:** An entity – either a provider or groups of providers – engaged in a VBP contract with a Managed Care Organization..