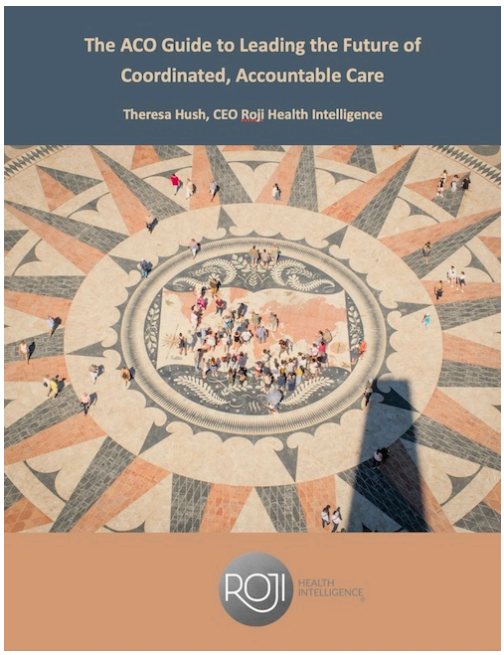
Is Your ACO Built for What Comes Next?

written by Theresa Hush | July 13, 2026

The last two years have dramatically strengthened the ACO role in providing accountable care. New CMS specialty payment models—TEAM, ASM, and the proposed CJR-X—each include specific provisions for ACO coordination and referrals, extending the ACO's reach deep into the specialty care continuum. LEAD, the

new long-term ACO model with prospective payments, has redefined the future of the ACO as the hub of accountable care, with specialty integration built into its architecture. Quality reporting requirements have tightened. Data obligations have expanded. And beneath all of it, a fundamental question persists: is your organization actually built for what comes next?

Most of the guidance available to ACO leaders focuses on compliance—how to report, how to avoid penalties, how to survive the next rule cycle. That guidance has its place. But it does not answer the harder questions: How do you build an organization that thrives in a Value-Based Care ecosystem and serves as its hub? How do you manage total cost of care and episodic risk for the same patients at the same time? How do you prepare for specialty payment models when your technology and workflows were designed for primary care population health? And how do you extend your ACO’s reach into the 359 days a year when your highest-risk patients are making decisions—about food, movement, medication, and habits—without anyone from your care team present?



We wrote The ACO Guide to Leading the Future of Coordinated, Accountable Care to address those questions directly. It collects five Roji Intel articles published over the first half of 2026, each building on the last—from the mandatory model landscape, to the analytics challenge, to the technology imperative, to the human question at the center of it all: What does the ACO owe its patients beyond claims management and quality reporting? Together they form a practical guide for ACO and health system leaders willing to step into the complexity ahead—not manage around it.

Download your free eBook:

The ACO Guide to Leading the Future of Coordinated, Accountable Care

Founded in 2002, Roji Health Intelligence guides health care systems, providers and patients on the path to better health through Solutions that help providers improve their value and succeed in Risk.

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