Several health plans are testing or actively considering episode-based payments in Colorado. Among others, they include Medicare, the Colorado Business Group on Health and Medicaid.

- The Medicare Acute Care Episode (ACE) Demonstration is testing episode-of-care payments in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Exempla St. Joseph Hospital in Denver is the Colorado demonstration site. Under the pilot program, St. Joseph’s receives a single, bundled payment for physician and hospital services for a select set of inpatient cardiovascular procedures. A main goal of the ACE demonstration is to provide savings for beneficiaries, providers and the Medicare program.¹

- The Healthcare Incentives Payment Pilot is a new payment initiative managed by the Colorado Business Group on Health and funded by The Colorado Health Foundation. The program is examining the feasibility of payment reform, especially episode-based payments, in various Colorado communities, especially for patients with chronic conditions. In its next phase, the program will design and implement two or more community pilot programs.²

- The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is researching and modeling episode-of-care Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus payments but currently does not pay based on an episode of care.³