



QPP Resource Center: MACRA Minute

December 2019 * Happy Holidays!
We hope you're able to spend quality time enjoying family & friends this holiday season!



Now Available: 2020 Quality Measure List

CMS recently published the [quality measures list for 2020](#). This comprehensive list contains the measure description, collection type, and specialty measure set name. Technical measure specifications and supporting documents for the 2020 measures will be posted prior to the start of the performance year.

Take Action: Check Your 2019 MIPS Eligibility Status

ECs can now check the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#) for their final 2019 MIPS eligibility status. Initially, CMS determined 2019 eligibility status using Part B claims and PECOS data from 10/1/2017 to 9/30/2018. This has now updated based on CMS' latest review of Part B claims/PECOS data from 10/1/2018 to 9/30/2019.

Please Note: If you joined a new practice (meaning previously billed under a different TIN) between 10/1/2018 to 9/30/2019, your eligibility will reflect your association with the new practice.

Those joining a new practice after 9/30/2019, are not be eligible to report MIPS data as an individual that's associated with your new practice. However, you might be eligible to receive a payment adjustment if your new practice elects to participate as a group.

For More Information:

- Visit the [MIPS participation page](#) on the QPP website
- View the 2019 participation [infographic](#)
- Check out the 2019 participation and eligibility [fact sheet](#) and [user guide](#)

Reminder: CMS Final Policies for PY 2020



On November 1, CMS issued final policies for QPP PY (performance year) 2020 of the via the [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule](#).

Key finalized policies include:

- Maintaining weights for the Cost (15 percent) and Quality (45 percent) performance categories
- Increasing the performance threshold from 30 points to 45 points
- Increasing the data completeness threshold (quality data that clinicians submit) to 70 percent
- Increasing the participation threshold for group reporting in the Improvement Activity category from a single clinician to 50 percent of clinicians in the practice
- Revising the specifications for the Total Per Capita Cost and Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary Clinician measures
- Updating requirements for Qualified Clinical Data Registry measures and services third-party intermediaries must provide (beginning in PY 2021)

CMS is finalizing the [MIPS Value Pathways](#) (MVPs) participation framework that begins in PY 2021. MVPs will move away from siloed activities and measures toward measure options that are more relevant to the clinician's practice and patients under their care. CMS will implement the MVP framework gradually, beginning in PY 2021.

For more information please reference the following documents:

- [Fact Sheet](#) comparing requirements in PY 2020 to PY 2019
- [FAQs](#) regarding 2020 final rule policies
- [MVPs Video](#) of the MVPs participation framework
- [2020 Quality Payment Program Final Rule Webinar](#)



ECs struggling to meet requirements for the Promoting Interoperability category can [apply for a hardship exception](#) by December 31, 2019, citing one of the following specified reasons:

- Small practice
- Decertified EHR technology
- Insufficient internet connectivity
- Extreme and uncontrollable circumstances such as disaster, practice closure, severe financial distress, or vendor issues
- Lacking control over the availability of CEHRT

Please note:

- Simply lacking CEHRT does not qualify you for re-weighting
- ECs already exempt from Promoting Interoperability don't need to apply

If you have questions about the hardship exceptions, please refer to the 2019 exceptions [FAQ document](#)

New Resources: Available in the QPP Library

The following resources were updated or added in November:

- [2019 Qualified QCDRs](#)
- [2019 Qualified Registries](#)
- [2019 QCDR Measure Specifications](#)
- [2020 MIPS Quality Measure List](#)
- [2019 Opt-in and Voluntary Reporting Fact Sheet](#)
- [2019 Exceptions FAQs](#)
- [2018 Performance Feedback FAQs](#)
- [2019 MIPS Extreme and Incontrollable Circumstances Policy](#)

We anticipate 2020 resources will be available in early January. If you haven't already done so, sign up for the [CMS QPP listserv](#).

In 2020, this section of the newsletter will provide an in-depth look at new measures and activities for 2020 including three new quality measures and two new Improvement Activities.

Quality Measures:

- **476:** International Prostate Symptom Score or American Urological Association-Symptom Index Change 6-12 Months After Diagnosis of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- **477:** Multimodal Pain Management
- **478:** Functional Status Change for Patients with Neck Impairments

Improvement Activities:

- **IA_BE_25:** Drug Cost Transparency High Weight
- **IA_CC_18:** Tracking of clinician's relationship to and responsibility for a patient by reporting MACRA patient relationship codes

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