

# QPP Resource Center: MACRA Minute



November 2018

### *New This Month: CMS Releases Year 3 QPP Final Rule*

On November 1, CMS released the QPP Final Rule outlining what the changing and expanding MIPS program will look like in its third year (2019). As we wind down Year 2 and prepare to report data this coming January, remember the Telligen team is available to answer questions and offer assistance. To reach an adviser, call 844-358-4021 or send us an [email](#).

### **Year 3 Final Rule Summary:**

- Expanding eligible clinicians to include: physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, clinical psychologists, registered dietitians or nutrition professional
- Adding a third element, number of covered professional services, to the low-volume threshold determination
- Providing an opt-in policy for ECs that meet or exceed one or two elements of the low-volume threshold the ability to participate in MIPS

- Applying facility-based scoring for eligible facility-based clinicians
- New performance thresholds: 30 points to avoid a negative payment adjustment and 75 points to receive an exceptional performer bonus
- Allowing small practices to submit data for covered professional services through the Medicare Part B claims submission type for the Quality performance category
- Increasing the small practice bonus to six points and moving this bonus to the Quality category score
- Quality is weighted at 45 percent, there are eight new quality measures to choose from, however, only six are required to be reported
- Cost will be weighted at 15 percent, as there are eight new episode-based measures
- Improvement activities will remain 15 percent of the total score, and will include six additional activities
  - Double activity points for small/rural/non-patient facing clinicians
- While the Promoting Interoperability category weight will remain at 25 percent, performance and bonus measures have been eliminated
  - You are required to use 2015 CHERT in 2019
  - Security risk analysis will still be required but not scored
  - Five mandatory performance measures and two bonus measures
  - Changes are being made to support greater EHR interoperability and patient access while aligning with the new Promoting Interoperability requirements for hospitals

#### For More Information:

- High-Level [Executive Summary](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)

## Upcoming Webinars: Mark Your Calendar

### *Medicare Learning Network Webinar:* *CMS Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule Call:* [November 19 from 1 to 2:30 pm CT](#)

This final rule is expected to increase the amount of time clinicians spend with patients by reducing Medicare paperwork. CMS experts will answer questions and address: 1) streamlining evaluation and management and reducing burden; 2) advancing virtual care; and 3) improving the QPP by reducing burden and offering flexibilities.

CMS encourages reviewing the following materials prior to the call:

- Physician Fee Schedule: [Press Release](#) and [E/M Payment Chart](#)

## [CMS LAN Webinar](#)

*Overview of the 2019 Final Rule; Implications for Solo and Small Group Practices:* [November 27 at 10:00 AM CT](#) & [November 29 at 2:30 PM CT](#)

## [Telligen QPP Resource Center Webinar](#)

*A Closer Look at the Performance Requirements for 2019*  
[December 18 at 11 am CT](#)

## Update: Year 1 (2017) QPP Performance Data

On November 8, CMS released additional 2017 QPP performance data. Following the [release of preliminary data](#) earlier this year, CMS is now releasing additional data elements showing significant success and participation in both the MIPS and Advanced APM tracks.

CMS is committed to continue sharing additional performance data as it becomes available. They're still listening and looking for ways to improve the program to help drive value, reduce burden, promote meaningful participation by clinicians, and improve outcomes for beneficiaries.

For a complete breakdown of the 2017 performance data, please see CMS' [blog post](#) and 2017 QPP performance year data [infographic](#).

## New Resources: Tools, Training, & More

### Security Risk Assessment Tool: Version 3.0

The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) developed an updated version of the Security Risk Assessment Tool. This new version is user-friendly, and applies more broadly to the risks of the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of health information. Visit [Healthit.gov](http://Healthit.gov) to download the new tool and the [SRA Tool User Guide](#).

### QPP CMEs

The Medicare Learning Network offers multiple QPP online learning classes with the opportunity to earn CME credit. Login or set up a new account [here](#). Browse the catalog or search Quality Payment Program to find the courses that fit your needs.

### Diabetes Toolkit

To promote better outcomes for patients with diabetes, the CDC now offers a [diabetes toolkit](#) for pharmacy, podiatry, optometry and dentistry practices. The toolkit covers how clinicians can work with each other and other members of the care team, including primary clinicians, physician assistants, nurse educators, and community health workers.

## New: Meet Your QPP Resource Team

### Meet Telligen's Dr. Karen Korth

Dr. Karen Korth is the Director of Quality



Performance for Best Practices Academy. Karen's work with Telligen includes behavioral health and chiropractic clinicians. At BPA, she focuses on guiding practices through patient-centered recognition programs.

Karen is a nationally certified mental health counselor, a NCQA PCMH Certified Content Expert, and currently taking courses on Agile methodology.

As a self-proclaimed life long learner, she's passionate about helping practices become learning organizations. After conducting doctoral research in change management, Karen has spent 20 years helping organizations facilitate change. She's a believer in challenging the status quo and helping individuals and organizations actualize their potential.

Karen, and her partner Greg, live in a cabin on the Lewis and Clark Lake. They enjoy gardening, grilling, and walking among the majestic eagles near the Gavin's Point dam. Their combined family includes eight children and five energy-filled grandsons.

## Reminders: 2018 Claims Submissions & Opioid Series

### 2018 Claims Submissions

CMS has updated the [QPP website](#) to enable EC who select Quality data via claims to access Year 2 (2018) preliminary feedback on an ongoing basis. The feedback will be updated on a monthly basis.

### Opioid Safety Project

Telligen QIN-QIO and the American Medical Association will take a deeper dive into safely managing patients with opioids in a webinar series held the 2nd Wednesday of each month in December.

- **December 12: Patient and Family Perspectives**  
Presenter: Jennifer Westlund, American Academy of Pain Medicine  
Time: Noon to 1:00 pm, CT  
Registration Link: [goo.gl/SzqZ6t](https://goo.gl/SzqZ6t)

All opioid-related webinars will be recorded and posted on the Telligen QIN-QIO website. For more information, contact Sandy Swallow at [sandy.swallow@area-d.hcqis.org](mailto:sandy.swallow@area-d.hcqis.org) or 515-223-2105.

## QPP Resources: Now Available on CMS.gov

On October 30, the QPP resource library moved back to [QPP.CMS.gov](https://www.cms.gov).

Resources will remain on [CMS.gov](https://www.cms.gov) until November 30, so take an opportunity to update your bookmarks and search new materials.

- [Final Rule Fact Sheet 11/1](#)

- [QPP Performance Data Infographic](#) 11/8
- [MIPS Measures & Activities for Pathologists](#) 11/5
- [MIPS Measures & Activities for Emergency Medicine Clinicians](#) 11/5
- [MIPS Measures & Activities for Ophthalmologists](#) 11/5
- [MIPS Measures & Activities for Optometrists](#) 11/5
- [MIPS Measures & Activities for Primary Care Clinicians](#) 11/5
- [MIPS Measures & Activities for Podiatrists](#) 11/5
- [2018 MIPS Scoring Guide](#) 10/3
- [2018 Quality Measures Impacted by ICD-10](#) 10/1
- [2018 QPP Participation Infographic](#) 10/9
- [2018 MIPS Data Submission Infographic](#) 10/9
- [2019 MIPS Payment Adjustment Remittance FAQs](#) 10/19

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