



QPP Resource Center: MACRA Minute

October 2020



Test Your QPP Website Access Before Network Security Update

A mandatory federal-wide network security update will be applied to the CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP) in the fall of 2020. As a result, your web browser may not be supported, and you may not be able to access qpp.cms.gov. In advance of the security update, we encourage you to test your web browser connection at <https://preview.qpp.cms.gov>. For more information please refer to the [2020 Network Security Update Fact Sheet](#).

Telligen Performers of Excellence Program

The Telligen Quality Payment Program Support Center is pleased to sponsor the

Telligen QPP-SURS Performers of Excellence Award.

The Performers of Excellence Award will formally recognize physician practices that demonstrate excellence in quality improvement and are actively participating in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Payment Program (QPP).

To be eligible for the Performers of Excellence Award, practices must have 15 or fewer clinicians and be located in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, or South Dakota. Award criteria includes quality improvement strategies that align with the four performance categories of the QPP: Quality, Promoting Interoperability, Improvement Activities, and Cost. Practices must also participate in Telligen's **QPP Connect Live!** call-in sessions and other QPP-related webinars. Watch for a recorded webinar to discuss specifics about the program in October. We will post it to the website [here](#) as well as continue to share more information in the coming months.

2020 Performance Period MIPS Quality Measures Impacted by the Annual ICD-10 Coding Update

In the 2018 Quality Payment Program Final Rule (82 FR 53714 through 53716), CMS finalized the policy allowing for the review of quality measures for significant impacts due to ICD-10 coding changes during the performance period. Performance for these quality measures will be assessed based only on the first 9 months of the 12-month performance period.

For the 2020 MIPS performance period, CMS has not identified any quality measures requiring performance data to be suppressed for the last quarter of the performance period due to the annual ICD-10 code update.

Additional information regarding this policy can be found in the [2020 MIPS Quality Measures Impacted by ICD-10 Updates](#) located on the [QPP Resource Library](#).

The Data Validation and Audits (DVA) for the Quality Payment Program 2017 and 2018 Performance Periods are Complete

Under the Quality Payment Program, CMS conducts an annual DVA of MIPS measures and activities from the Quality, Improvement Activities, and Promoting Interoperability performance categories to ensure that the program is using accurate and useful data to validate measures and activities and inform future policy. MIPS participants chosen for this audit are randomly selected to include a representative sample of clinician types and submission methods.

CMS recognizes the challenges some clinicians may have faced in the transition to MIPS during the first years of the program. As such, the DVA process for the 2017 and 2018 performance periods will be used for educational purposes only and audited MIPS clinicians will not be subject to

a MIPS final score or payment adjustment change based on the DVA results. Note: in future audits, the DVA may result in a change to a clinician's MIPS final score and payment adjustment changes.

MIPS clinicians selected for audit can contact the Quality Payment Program for 2017 and 2018 DVA results. You may contact the Quality Payment Program at QPP@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a TRS Communications Assistant.

Upcoming LAN Webinar & Telligen Webinar

Upcoming December LAN Webinar

The next CMS LAN Webinar will be held in December, topic and registration links will be available in our November newsletter.

Telligen Webinar:

Overview of the 2021 Proposed Rule

This webinar explores the key proposed changes to the QPP MIPS program for the 2021 performance year. Watch the recording or download the slides [here](#).

New Resources in the QPP Resource Library

The following resources were updated or added in September

- [2020 MIPS Quality Measures Impacted by ICD-10 Updates](#)
- [2021 MIPS Eligibility Decision Tree](#)
- [2020 Qualified Registries](#)
- [2020 MIPS Exceptions Application Fact Sheet](#)
- [2020 MIPS Group Participation Guide](#)

This material was prepared by Telligen QPP-SURS Resource Center, the Quality Payment Program for Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. HHSM-500-2017-00012C.

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