



QPP Resource Center: MACRA Minute

September 2020



Rural Health Flexibilities for COVID-19

The CMS Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) has released a new resource, [Rural Crosswalk: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19](#). This resource documents all current COVID-19-related waivers and flexibilities issued by CMS impacting rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, critical access hospitals, rural hospitals, and long-term care facilities.

Rural Crosswalk describes the significance of each provision for rural providers and facilities and is divided into six sections for easy navigation:

1. Telehealth
2. CMS Hospitals Without Walls

3. Patients Over Paperwork
4. Workforce
5. Payment
6. Additional guidance

For More Information:

Visit CMS' [rural health resource page](#) or email CMS at RuralHealth@cms.hhs.gov or connect with CMS [Regional Rural Health Coordinators](#).

Final Feedback

As a reminder, MIPS final feedback was released in August. If you have not done so already, please review your score and payment adjustment. ECs can access their 2019 MIPS performance feedback and final score by:

- Visiting [the QPP website](#)
- Logging in using your HCQIS Access Roles and Profile (HARP) system credentials (the same credentials used to submit 2019 data)
 - If you don't have a HARP account, please refer to the "Register for a HARP Account document" in the QPP User Guide and start the process now
 - To learn more, review 2019 MIPS Performance Feedback Resources

COVID-19 QPP Flexibilities

CMS is implementing multiple flexibilities in response to COVID-19 including:

- Applying MIPS automatic extreme and uncontrollable circumstances to all ECs for the 2019 performance period
- Reopening the [2019 extreme and uncontrollable circumstances application](#) to request reweighting of MIPS performance categories to 0

The 2019 final scores on the [QPP website](#) will reflect these flexibilities. More information is available in the [COVID-19 Response Fact Sheet](#) and [CMS' COVID-19 web page](#).

Questions?

Contact the QPP at 1-866-288-8292 or QPP@cms.hhs.gov. To receive assistance more quickly, consider calling during non-peak hours (before 10:00 a.m. or after 2:00 p.m., ET).

Targeted Review

MIPS ECs,* groups, virtual groups, and APM participants may request CMS to review their 2020 MIPS payment adjustment factor(s) through the targeted review process.

*Includes designated support staff or authorized third-party intermediary

When to Request a Targeted Review

ECs suspecting an error to their 2020 payment adjustment have until **October 5, 2020** to request a targeted review. Examples of targeted review circumstances include:*

- Errors or data quality issues for the measures & activities submitted
- Eligibility & special status issues (e.g., falling below the low-volume threshold)
- Erroneously excluded from APM participation & not scored under the APM scoring standard
- Performance categories not automatically reweighted when qualifying for extreme & uncontrollable circumstances

* This is not a comprehensive list. CMS encourages all ECs to submit a request if a targeted review is warranted.

How to Request a Targeted Review

- Go to the [QPP website](#)
- Log in using your HARP credentials (the same credentials used to submit MIPS data)
 - Please refer to the QPP Access Guide for additional details

CMS may require documentation to support a targeted review request. If the request is approved, the final score and/or associated payment adjustment will be updated as soon as technically feasible. Please note that targeted review decisions are final and not eligible for further review.

For More Information:

- [2019 Targeted Review User Guide](#)
- [2021 MIPS Payment Adjustment Fact Sheet](#)
- Contact the QPP at 1-866-288-8292 or QPP@cms.hhs.gov.
 - To receive assistance more quickly, consider calling during non-peak hours (before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. ET.)

Cost Measure Field Testing

CMS will conduct Cost measures field testing from **August 17 to September 18, 2020**. ECs meeting attribution requirements for at least one of the measures below will receive a field test report:

- Asthma/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Colon and Rectal Resection
- Diabetes
- Melanoma Resection
- Sepsis

Access Field Test Reports

Field Test Report(s) are available to download on the [QPP website](#) for ECs meeting the minimum number of episodes below:

- 10 episodes for procedural & acute inpatient medical condition cost measures
- 20 episodes for chronic condition cost measures

Submit Feedback

All ECs can voluntarily participate in CMS' [online survey](#) for draft measure specifications until **September 18, 2020** at 11:59 p.m., ET. A reference guide is available on the [MACRA Feedback Page](#).

September Webinars

CMS LAN: Maximizing MIPS Scores for Solo and Small Group Practices

This event will focus on basic requirements for each performance category, telehealth measures and activities, measures and activities targeted to practice, and applying for a hardship application. Two sessions are available:

- [September 15 from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM CT](#)
- [September 17 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM CT](#)

Telligen QPP SURS: Understanding 2019 MIPS Performance Feedback

This [on-demand presentation](#) walks ECs through the process of accessing 2019 MIPS final feedback, explains each of the performance categories, and describes the targeted review process.

Stay Tuned: Telligen's latest presentation, Overview of the 2021 Proposed Rule, will be posted to the [website](#) soon.

New Resources in the QPP Resource Library

The following resources were updated or added in August:

- [MIPS Value Pathways Overview Fact Sheet](#)
- [2020 Facility-Based Quick Start Guide](#)
- [2020 Quality Quick Start Guide](#)
- [2020 Web Interface Registration Guide & CAHPS for MIPS Survey](#)
- [2020 QPP Network Security Update](#)
- [QPP COVID-19 Response](#)
- [2020 MIPS Cost User Guide](#)
- [2020 MIPS Participation & Eligibility User Guide](#)
- [2020 MIPS Promoting Interoperability User Guide](#)
- [2020 Qualified Clinical Data Registries \(QCDR\)](#)
- [2020 Qualified Registries](#)
- [2020 QCDR Measure Specifications](#)
- [2020 CMS Web Interface Quick Start Guide](#)
- [2021 MIPS Payment Adjustment Fact Sheet](#)
- [2019 Targeted Review User Guide](#)

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