

QPP Resource Center: MACRA Minutes

January 2021



Now Open: 2020 Data Submission

CMS has opened the data submission period for MIPS ECs who participated in the QPP 2020 Performance Year (PY). Data can be submitted and updated until **March 31, 2021** by 7 p.m., CT.

How to Submit Your Data:

1. Go to the [QPP website](#)
2. Sign-in using your [QPP access credentials](#)
3. Submit your PY 2020 performance data or review data reported on your behalf by a third-party

Deadline Extended: Extreme & Uncontrollable Circumstances (EUC)

To further support clinicians during the COVID-19 public health emergency, CMS is extending the 2020 MIPS EUC application deadline to **February 1, 2021**. The EUC policy allows MIPS ECs, groups, and virtual groups to submit an application requesting a re-weigh of one or more performance categories to 0 percent.

ECs concerned about impacts to their PY 2020 data (including cost measures) are encouraged to [submit an application](#) now citing COVID-19 as the reason.

If your application is approved, you can still submit data and receive scores for the Quality, Improvement Activities, and Promoting Interoperability performance categories. If the Cost category is included in your approved application, you will not be scored on cost measures even if other data are submitted. Learn more about MIPS

Take Action: Check Your Final 2020 Eligibility Status

You can now use the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#) to review your final 2020 MIPS eligibility status. This check is recommended as your eligibility status may have changed.

If, after the initial review earlier this year, you were classified as:

- **MIPS Eligible:** You may no longer be eligible and should verify status
- **Not Eligible at a Particular Practice:** Your eligibility status with a particular practice will not change unless you were identified as a MIPS APM participant

What if I joined a new practice?

If you joined a new practice (meaning you billed under or assigned billing rights to a new/different Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2020, CMS evaluated your MIPS eligibility based on your association with the new practice (identified by TIN) during the second review.

This means clinicians that joined a new practice after September 30, 2020, are not eligible as individuals; however, they may be eligible for a payment adjustment if their new practice elects to participate in MIPS as a group. Clinicians can also [use the tool](#) to view their initial eligibility status for PY 2021.

2021 Updates: MIPS Payment Adjustment & QPP Final Rule

2021 MIPS Payment Adjustments

Payment adjustments for PY 2021 (based on each EC's 2019 final score) will apply to payments made for Part B covered professional services under the Physician Fee Schedule. Payment adjustments are determined by the final score associated with your TIN/NPI combination.

To receive a positive, neutral, or negative payment adjustment in 2021, ECs must:

- Be identified as an eligible clinician type;
- Enroll in Medicare prior to January 1, 2019;
- Not be a Qualifying APM Participant (QP); or
- Be a partial APM QP that elected to participate and meets one of the following criteria:
 - Individually exceeded the low-volume threshold;
 - In a practice that exceeded the low-volume threshold and submitted group data or were part of an approved virtual group; or
 - In a MIPS APM with the APM entity group exceeding the low volume threshold (includes partial QPs who elected to participate in MIPS).

Learn More

Refer to the [2021 Payment Adjustment Fact Sheet](#) for additional details and FAQs.

2021 QPP Final Rule Highlights

- MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs) implementation set to begin in 2022 instead of 2021

- Performance threshold of 60 points for 2021
- Revises category weights for Quality (decreases from 45 to 40 percent) and Cost (increases from 15 to 20 percent)
- Extends use of the CMS Web Interface as the MIPS collection/submission/reporting tool for 2021 and sunsetting the option in 2022
- Sunsetting the APM scoring standard and providing MIPS APM clinicians the option to participate/submit data at the individual, group, virtual group, or APM entity levels
- Updates third-party intermediary approval criteria and remedial action and termination criteria
- Increases the complex patient bonus from a 5- to 10-point maximum for clinicians, groups, virtual groups, and APM entities (for PY 2020 only) to offset the additional complexity due to COVID-19

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Webinars & Events

Telligen Webinars

QPP Connect Live: 2021 Final Rule

This month Telligen is sponsoring the QPP SURS Performers of Excellence Award to formally recognize practices demonstrating excellence in quality improvement and actively participating in MIPS PY 2021.

The program features the new webinar series, "Telligen QPP Connect Live." This series will occur on the third Wednesday each month from Noon to 1 p.m. CT, and will present on a new topic followed by a participant Q&A.

Join us Wednesday, January 20 for a presentation on the 2021 Final Rule.

- Join via [Zoom](#)
 - Meeting ID: 959 0889 7340
 - Passcode: 761463
- Join via Telephone (for best quality, select a number based on your current location):
 - +1 (346) 248 7799 or +1 (669) 900 6833 or +1 (253) 215 8782 or +1 (312) 626 6799 or +1 (929) 205 6099 or +1 (301) 715 8592
 - Meeting ID: 959 0889 7340

Changes to 2021 Quality Measures

[This archived webinar](#) provides detailed information on Quality performance category updates, including new and removed measures and measures with substantive changes in PY 2021.

CMS LAN Webinars

January LAN: Implications of the Year 5 Final Rule

- [Tuesday, January 12 from 10 to 11 a.m., CT](#)
- [Thursday, January 14 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., C T](#)

New Resources: Available in the QPP Library

The following resources were updated or added in December:

- [2020 MIPS Opt-In & Voluntary Reporting Toolkit](#)
- [2020 MIPS EUC Application Resources](#)
- [2020 MIPS Exceptions Application Fact Sheet](#)
- [2020 MIPS EMA and Denominator Reduction User Guide](#)
- [QPP COVID-19 Response](#)
- [2021 Quality Benchmarks](#)
- [2021 MIPS Quality Measure List](#)
- [2021 CQM Measure Specifications & Supporting Documents](#)
- [2021 Claims Measure Specifications & Supporting Documents](#)
- [2021 QCDR Measure Specifications](#)
- [2021 Hip Arthroplasty & Knee Arthroplasty Complication Measure](#)
- [2021 Hospital-Wide All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure](#)
- [2021 Improvement Activity Inventory](#)
- [2021 Promoting Interoperability Measure Specifications](#)
- [2021 MIPS Cost Measure Information Forms](#)
- [2021 MIPS Summary of Cost Measures](#)
- [2021 MIPS Cost Measure Codes Lists](#)
- [2021 Cross-Cutting Quality Measures](#)
- [2021 APM Performance Pathway Infographic](#)
- [2021 APM Performance Pathway for MIPS APM Participants](#)
- [2021 QPP Final Rule](#)
- [2021 Qualified Registries Posting](#)
- [2021 QCDR Posting](#)
- [2020 CMS Web Interface Sampling Methodology](#)
- [2020 MIPS Assignment Methodology & CAHPS for MIPS Survey](#)
- [2020 CMS Web Interface User Demo Video](#)
- [2020 Web Interface Support Call Schedule & Registration](#)
- [2020 APM Quality Scoring Resources](#)
- [2020 - 2021 Comprehensive List of APMs](#)

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 and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. HHSM-500-2017-00012C.