

November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

APM Incentive Payment

In September 2020, CMS announced disbursement of the 5% APM Incentive Payments to eligible clinicians who were Qualifying APM Participants (QPs) based on their 2018 performance. If you were a QP in 2018, [sign in](#) to view your APM Incentive Payment information.

[Learn More](#)

Test Your QPP Website Access Before Network Security Update

To increase network security, a mandatory update will be applied to the Quality Payment Program (QPP) systems in **fall 2020**. As a result, you may not be able to access qpp.cms.gov. CMS encourages you to test your web browser and make any necessary updates to ensure your continued access to the QPP Portal. Click [here](#) now to see if your browser will allow you to continue to access QPP. If the page can't be displayed, update your web browser to the most current version. Reference [this](#) resource for assistance.

Performance Year 2021 Virtual Group Election Period is Now Open

Clinicians interested in participating in MIPS as a Virtual Group in 2021 must follow an election process and submit an election to CMS by **December 31, 2020**. [Download Virtual Group Toolkit](#).

Review Your 2019 MIPS Performance Feedback and Final Score

The Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS) has released 2019 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) performance feedback and final scores. If you submitted data for the 2019 performance period, you can view your MIPS performance feedback and final score on the [Quality Payment Program website](#).

You can access your 2019 MIPS performance feedback and final score by:

- Going to cms.gov/login
- Logging in using your HCQIS Access Roles and Profile (HARP) system credentials; these are the same credentials that allowed you to submit your 2019 MIPS data

If you don't have a HARP account, please refer to the Register for a HARP Account document in the [QPP Access User Guide](#) and start the process now.

To learn more about performance feedback, review the [2019 MIPS Performance Feedback Resources](#):

- **2019 MIPS Performance Feedback FAQs**—Highlights what performance feedback is, who receives the feedback, and how to access it on the Quality Payment Program [website](#).

November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

- **2019 MIPS Performance Feedback Patient-Level Data Reports FAQs**—Provides information on the patient-level data reports for download by those who were scored on a 2019 MIPS cost measure and/or the 2019 30-Day All-Cause Readmission (ACR) measure.

MIPS Eligible Clinicians Participating in MIPS Alternative Payment Model (APM) Entities

If you participated as a MIPS APM under one of the following models in 2019, your MIPS performance feedback is now available via the Quality Payment Program [website](#):

- Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Advanced Model (BPCI Advanced)
- Comprehensive ESRD Care (CEC) Model (LDO arrangement)
- Comprehensive ESRD Care (CEC) Model (non-LDO one-sided risk arrangement)
- Comprehensive ESRD Care (CEC) Model (non-LDO two-sided risk arrangement)
- Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) Model
- Medicare Shared Savings Program (all tracks)
- Next Generation ACO Model
- Oncology Care Model (OCM) (one-sided Risk Arrangement)
- Oncology Care Model (OCM) (two-sided Risk Arrangement)
- Vermont Medicare ACO Initiative (as part of the Vermont All-Payer ACO Model)
- Maryland Primary Care Program
- Independence at Home Demonstration

Under the MIPS APM Scoring Standard, the performance feedback will be based on the APM Entity score and is applicable to all MIPS eligible clinicians within the APM Entity. Note: Performance feedback is not related to model-specific requirements and assessments outside of the Quality Payment Program.

Individual clinicians and representatives of the APM Entity will be able to access performance feedback directly on the [Quality Payment Program website](#) using their HARP account.

COVID-19 Flexibilities

CMS is implementing multiple flexibilities for the Quality Payment Program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We determined that the MIPS automatic extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy would be applied to all individual MIPS eligible clinicians for the 2019 performance period, and we reopened the [2019 extreme and uncontrollable circumstances application](#) to allow requests for reweighting of the MIPS performance categories to 0%.

The 2019 MIPS final scores available on the [Quality Payment Program website](#) reflect these COVID-19 flexibilities. Learn more about the COVID-19 flexibilities in the [COVID-19 Response Fact Sheet](#) and [COVID-19 Response Webpage](#).

November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

Questions?

Contact the Quality Payment Program at 1-866-288-8292 or by e-mail at: QPP@cms.hhs.gov. To receive assistance more quickly, please consider calling during non-peak hours—before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. ET.

- Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a TRS Communications Assistant.

CMS Releases Preliminary 2019 Performance Year Quality Payment Program Results

Oct 27, 2020 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [blog post](#) and [infographic](#) to share preliminary participation data for the Quality Payment Program (QPP) in 2019.

CMS is pleased to share that despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, clinicians still overwhelmingly engaged* in QPP and submitted 2019 data.

Key findings include the following (please note this message updates two of the data points from the previous listserv):

- **97.44%** of MIPS eligible clinicians engaged in QPP (**correction**).
- Overall, MIPS engagement rose from 871,838 clinicians in 2018 to 930,219 clinicians in 2019.
- MIPS APM participation rose from 356,546 clinicians in 2018 to 416,281 clinicians in 2019.
- **6.83%** of MIPS eligible clinicians received reweighting of one or more MIPS performance categories (**correction**).
- The number of Qualifying Advanced Payment Model Participants (QPs) rose from 183,306 clinicians in 2018 to 195,564 in 2019.

*We define engaged clinicians as those who submitted some data to the program at the individual, group, virtual group, or APM Entity level (e.g., submitted one or more quality measures, attested to one or more improvement activities, etc.)

For More Information

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November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

QPP Participation Status Tool Now Includes Second Snapshot of 2020 Qualifying APM Participant and MIPS APMs Data

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its [Quality Payment Program Participation Status Tool](#) based on the second snapshot of data from Alternative Payment Model (APM) entities. The second snapshot includes data from Medicare Part B claims with **dates of service between January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020**. The tool includes 2020 Qualifying APM Participant (QP) and Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) APM participation status.

To learn more about how CMS determines QP and the APM participation status for each snapshot, please visit the [Advanced APMs webpage](#) on the [QPP website](#).

What Does QP Status Mean?

If you qualify as a QP, this means you are:

- Eligible for the 5% [APM](#) incentive payment; and
- Exempt from participating in [MIPS](#).

How Do I Check My QP or APM Participation Status?

To view your QP or APM participation status at the individual level:

- Visit the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#).
- Enter your 10-digit National Provider Identifier (NPI).

To check your 2020 eligibility at the APM Entity level:

- Log into the CMS [Quality Payment Program website](#). Learn how by downloading the [QPP Access User Guide](#).
- Browse to the Taxpayer Identification Number(s) affiliated with your entity.
- Access the details screen to view the eligibility status of every clinician based on their NPI.

Learn More

For more information on APMs, visit the [QPP APM webpages](#). For a [comprehensive list of APMs](#) and additional materials, visit the [QPP Resource Library](#).

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November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

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These flexibilities, and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19 click here: www.coronavirus.gov. For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

Security Risk Assessment Tool

ONC, in partnership with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) recently released an update to the [HHS Security Risk Assessment \(SRA\) Tool](#). This tool provides support for small- and medium-sized health care organizations in their efforts to assess security risks.

Using the SRA Tool When Conducting a Security Risk Assessment:

Hear from ONC, OCR, and security risk analysts on how to leverage the SRA Tool's functionality when conducting a security risk assessment. [Slides and Presentation](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

2020: Quality Payment Program Exception Applications Window Now Open

If you seek a Quality Payment Program Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception or a Hardship Exception to the Promoting Interoperability performance category, you will be able to apply for this between Spring 2020 and **December 31, 2020**.

August, 2020: Performance Feedback Available

CMS will provide you with performance feedback based on the data you submitted for Performance Year 2019. You will be able to use this feedback to improve your care and optimize the payments you receive from CMS.

August 31, 2020: Third Snapshot for QP Determinations and MIPS APM Participation

QP determinations are made approximately 4 months after each snapshot date. Check the [Quality Payment Program Participation Tool](#) for updates to your APM status. Learn more in our [QP Methodology Fact Sheet](#).

October 1, 2020: The 2021 Virtual Group Election period starts

Clinicians interested in participating in MIPS as a Virtual Group in 2021 must follow an election process and submit an election to CMS by **December 31, 2020**. [Download Virtual Group Toolkit](#).

October 3, 2020: Last Day to Start a 90-day Performance Period for Promoting Interoperability and Improvement Activities

November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

December 2020: PY 2020 Eligibility Finalized

December 31, 2020: The 2021 Virtual Group Election period ends

December 31, 2020: PY 2020 Ends

Quality Payment Program Exception Applications Window Closes
Fourth Snapshot for Full TIN APMs (Medicare Shared Savings Program)

Don't miss these upcoming events!

Colorado QPP Coalition Office Hours: November CANCELLED
Dec 15; 2021 QPP Final Rule; noon to 1 pm. [Register](#)

TMF

Upcoming Event:

[Let'sTalk QPP! How to Complete an Exception Application in the QPP Portal](#)

[Register](#) for this TMF webinar on **Wednesday, Nov. 4, at noon CT**. In 2020, both the Promoting Interoperability exception and the Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances exception must be completed in the Quality Payment Program (QPP) Portal. TMF consultants will walk participants through these processes, including how to withdraw an application if the clinician prefers to report after their application has been completed.

Resources:

[2020 MIPS Toolbox Quick-Start Guide](#)

This Quick-Start Guide helps you get started in five easy steps on TMF's MIPS Toolbox, a free online application to help eligible clinicians manage their participation in MIPS.

[2020 MIPS Toolbox User Guide](#)

Here is a detailed instruction guide to the TMF MIPS Toolbox, a free online application to help eligible clinicians manage their participation in MIPS.

[2020 MIPS Checklist](#)

This checklist is a tool for eligible clinicians and staff to prepare for and submit data for the 2020 MIPS program.

[Click here](#) to download the Quality Workshop Implementation Guide and watch the accompanying videos.

[Q&A: Finding Quality Measures Using Single Source Documents](#)

Finding applicable measures for your practice may be challenging. The 2020 Single Source documents are available for both claims measure reporting and MIPS clinical quality measures (CQMs or registry) reporting. These are very helpful resources when choosing measures to report.

November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

TMF Events: Check out upcoming events [HERE](#)

Connect with a TMF Consultant

Submit a [TMF Request for Support](#).

Email QPP-SURS@tmf.org.

Call 1-844-317-7609 or [live chat with a TMF consultant](#), Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CT.

Telligen Resources

The Telligen QIN-QIO works with [clinicians and healthcare facilities](#) to review the legislation, analyze performance data and study reimbursement opportunities to help providers navigate the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\)](#). Telligen is here to help providers succeed with the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) by providing a variety of no-cost services and education.

Our work:

- Provides tools and educational resources to succeed in the transition from legacy reporting programs (meaningful use, Physician Quality Reporting System and value modifier) to MIPS.
- Shares timely updates on reporting requirements, submission processes and deadlines.
- Extends technical assistance to healthcare organizations.
- Assists you with finding continuing medical education and continuing education units offered through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) focused on eligible clinician reporting requirements.

Download our [fact sheet](#) to learn more about this healthcare quality improvement work.

[Telligen QPP Resources](#)

Six new web presentation on the 2020 requirements for MIPS. There is a presentation for each category and in-depth look at claims-based reporting and multi-strata measures. You can view the presentations any time on the Telligen website using the links below.

- [2020 MIPS Quality Category Review](#)
- [2020 MIPS Improvement Activity Category Review](#)
- [2020 MIPS Promoting Interoperability Category Review](#)
- [2020 MIPS Cost Category Review](#)
- [Submit 2020 MIPS Quality with Claims-Based Measures](#)
- [2020 MIPS Multi-Strata Measures](#)
- [Understanding 2019 MIPS Performance Feedback](#)

November 2020 QPP Fast Facts

CMS QPP Resources

2020 QPP Quick Start Guides (Recently Updated)

- [2020 MIPS Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 Part B Claims Reporting Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 Improvement Activities Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 Eligibility and Participation Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 Cost Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 Facility-Based Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 Quality Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 Promoting Interoperability Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 09/01/2020
 - [2020 CMS Web Interface Quick Start Guide](#) Updated 8/11/2020
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Recently Updated or Created

- [Quality Payment Program Access User Guide](#) Updated 10/27/2020
 - [2019 QPP Participation Results Infographic](#) Updated 10/27/2020
 - [2020 APM Quality Scoring Resources](#) Updated 10/27/2020
 - [2020 MIPS Data Validation Execution Report \(DVER\) Template](#) Updated 10/22/2020
 - [2020 MIPS Quality User Guide](#) Updated 10/21/2020
 - [2020 Qualified Registries Qualified Posting](#) Updated 10/16/2020
 - [2020 MIPS 101 Guide](#) Created 10/09/2020
 - [2020 CAHPS for MIPS Minimum Business Requirements](#) Updated 10/09/2020
 - [Quality Payment Program Access User Guide](#) Updated 10/07/2020
 - [2020 MIPS Quality User Guide](#) Created 10/07/2020
 - [2020 MIPS Quality Measures Impacted by ICD-10 Updates](#) Created 09/30/2020
 - [2021 Virtual Group Toolkit](#) Updated 09/30/2020
 - [2020 QP Notice for APM Incentive Payment](#) Updated 09/28/2020
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