

Quality Payment Program: An Overview



What is the QPP?

- The Quality Payment Program (QPP) combines the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Meaningful Use (MU), and the Value-Modifier (VM) programs. The QPP has two tracks that you can choose:
 - Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
 - Alternative Payment Models (APMs)
- Your participation and performance in the QPP will determine whether you receive a positive, neutral, or negative payment adjustment on your Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) **AND** Medicare Part B allowed charges.

What's New for 2022?

In 2022, there were various changes to the QPP, some of which are:

- Increasing the weights of the Cost Performance category to 30 percent.
- Decreasing the weight of the Quality Performance category to 30 percent.
- Revising the definition of a MIPS-eligible clinician to include social workers and certified nurse midwives.
- Increasing the performance threshold to 75 points to avoid a negative 9 percent payment adjustment.
- Increasing the performance threshold to 89 points to be eligible for an exceptional performance bonus.
- Extending the CMS Web Interface as a collection type and submission type in traditional MIPS for registered groups, virtual groups, and APM Entities for the 2022 performance year only.
- Addition of five newly developed episode-based Cost measures.
- Application of automatic reweighting of the Promoting Interoperability (PI) performance category for small practices and clinical social workers.
- Addition of new required attestation PI measure, the High Priority Practices Guide of the Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) Guide's measure.
- Revision of the Prevention of Information Blocking attestation statements under the PI category.
- Revision to the Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange objective requirements under the PI category.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I find out if I am required to report for MIPS 2022?

A: Providers can check their 2022 eligibility status by entering their individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) number on the QPP Website at qpp.cms.gov/participation-lookup. Please note that the determination for MIPS-eligible clinicians is based on two review periods (1st Sampling is October 1, 2020–September 30, 2021; 2nd Sampling is October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022). If the clinician and the practice bill Medicare Part B data in both segments to be eligible for MIPS. If the clinicians and practice start billing Medicare Part B claims under a practice's Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) during segment 2 of the determination period, their eligibility at that practice will be based solely on the analysis of data from segment.

Q: How does scoring work in 2022?

A: In the 2022 performance year:

- The Quality category is worth 30 percent of the final score.
- The Improvement Activities (IA) category is worth 15 percent of the final score.
- The Promoting Interoperability (PI) category is worth 25 percent of the final score.
- The Cost category is worth 30 percent of the final score.

Q: How can I achieve a neutral payment adjustment in 2024?

A: To avoid the negative payment adjustment in 2024:

- For small practices (15 or fewer clinicians bill under the practice's Tax Identification Number [TIN]), submit all Quality measures that meet data completeness and are scored against the measure benchmarks; **AND** report one high-weighted or two medium-weighted IAs.
- For large practices (16 or more clinicians bill under the practice's Tax Identification Number [TIN]), report on all PI measures (scoring 100 percent for each measure); **AND** submit all Quality measures that meet data completeness and are scored against the measure benchmarks; **AND** report two high-weighted or four medium-weighted IAs.

Your Payment Adjustment Will Be Determined By Your Final Score

0–18.75 points Negative payment adjustment of -9%	15.01–59.99 points Negative payment adjustment greater than -9% and less than 0%	75.00 points (Performance threshold = 75.00 points) Neutral payment adjustment (0%)	75.01–88.99 points Positive payment adjustment (scaling factor applied to meet statutory budget neutrality requirements)	89.00–100.00 points (Additional performance threshold = 89.00 points) Positive payment adjustment (scaling factor applied to meet statutory budget neutrality requirements)
				AND Additional positive payment adjustment for exceptional performance (scaling factor applied to account for funding pool)