

Clinical Integration Educational Series

MIPS Improvement Activities

Reporting for Medicare Shared Savings Program Track 1 Accountable Care Organizations



Introduction

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) establishes a new clinician reimbursement mechanism with two payment tracks: the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) track and the Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) track.

So far in this educational series we've reviewed MACRA, the timing of implementation, and the impact of MIPS on clinician reimbursement. MIPS adjusts clinician payments based on their performance across four categories. Last week we described the MIPS Quality category and explained that your Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) Track 1 Accountable Care Organization (ACO) participation fulfills the reporting requirements for that category.

This week, we will describe the MIPS Improvement Activities category and **the benefits MSSP Track 1 ACO participation provides for your score in this category.**

QUALITY	IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES	ADVANCING CARE INFORMATION	COST
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2017 MIPS Improvement Activities Reporting for Clinicians in MSSP Track 1 ACOs

The Improvement Activities category within MIPS measures a clinician's or group's efforts to make care delivery more patient-centric.

The Improvement Activities category score will comprise 20% of a clinician's total MIPS score in performance year 2017. As a reminder, clinician performance under MIPS in 2017 impacts your payment in 2019.

CMS's inventory of Improvement Activities includes over 90 activities in these subcategories:

1. Beneficiary Engagement
2. Patient Safety and Practice Assessment
3. Achieving Health Equity
4. Behavioral and Mental Health
5. Expanded Practice Access
6. Population Management
7. Care Coordination
8. Emergency Response and Preparedness

Clinicians in MSSP Track 1 ACOs receive preferential scoring for the Improvement Activities category. For 2017, clinicians participating in an MSSP Track 1 ACO will receive a score of 100% for the Improvement Activities category, and **will not be required to submit any data for the category.**

By participating in SRQCN's MSSP Track 1 ACO, you will receive FULL CREDIT for the MIPS Improvement Activities category in 2017.

All Improvement Activities reporting after 2017 will be done through the MSSP ACO on behalf of clinicians and all participants will receive the same score.

*This informational series will be distributed every other week to help clinicians stay updated on MACRA and other initiatives. The next topic will be an overview of the Advancing Care Information category under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for Medicare Shared Savings Program Track 1 Accountable Care Organizations). **SRQCN will be publishing a MIPS Playbook in January 2017 which will outline the network's MIPS strategy and will facilitate strong performance in the Quality Payment Program.** In the meantime, for more details on MACRA and to explore measures please contact your physician practice liaison or visit <https://qpp.cms.gov/measures/ia>.*