

# Clinical Integration Educational Series

## MIPS Cost Category Reporting for Medicare Shared Savings Program Track 1 Accountable Care Organizations



### Introduction

Over the last few months, this educational series has been focused on MACRA (the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act), a law passed by Congress in 2015 that changes how the Medicare program reimburses providers and aims to move providers toward more value-based care. The law discontinues the use of the Sustainable Growth Rate formula for determining Medicare payments to providers, and creates a new quality measurement and reimbursement framework.

To recap, MACRA's new reimbursement framework creates two payment tracks:

1. Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and
2. Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs)

Most of the clinicians in the SRQCN Accountable Care Organization (ACO) will be reimbursed under the MIPS track. Starting in 2019, Medicare payment adjustments to clinicians will vary up to 4% based on MIPS performance in 2017.

As a reminder, MIPS adjusts clinician payments based on their performance across four categories: Quality, Improvement Activities, Advancing Care Information, and Cost. This week, we will go into detail about the Cost category of MIPS, which measures the value or efficiency of care provided by clinicians.



### Cost Category Weighting under MIPS

As a participant in a MSSP Track 1 ACO, **the Cost category does not count toward your overall MIPS score in Performance Year 2017.** Consequently, no clinician data submission is required for this category.

### Overall MIPS Category Weighting

While the Cost category will not contribute to your overall MIPS score because you are in a MSSP Track 1 ACO, your performance in the other three MIPS categories will. The table below shows how these categories will be weighted in Performance Year 2017 for MSSP Track 1 ACO participants.

As a participant in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) Track 1 ACO, you receive preferential scoring under MIPS, which can help facilitate your success. For example, you will automatically receive full credit for the Improvement Activities category. In addition, your data reporting burden will be reduced because the ACO will handle much of the data submission process.

2017 MIPS Performance Score Category Weights for MSSP Track 1 ACOs	
QUALITY	50%
IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES	20%
ADVANCING CARE INFORMATION	30%
COST	0%

*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 Track 1 of the Medicare Shared Savings Program. **SRQCN will be publishing a MIPS Playbook in January 2017 which will outline the network's MIPS strategy and will facilitate strong performance under MIPS.** In the meantime, for more details on MACRA and to explore measures please contact your Physician Practice Liaison or visit <https://qpp.cms.gov>.*