

Quality Payment Program: 2023 Updates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its updates to the Quality Payment Program (QPP), along with the Physician Fee Schedule, in early November for the 2023 performance year. There were no major surprises in the updates and CMS maintained the performance threshold and performance category weights from those in 2022 for 2023 and made some additions to the Improvement Activities component, the Promoting Interoperability category and established five new MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs).

Below are some items that AANEM members should be aware of for 2023:

- The 2023 performance threshold (the minimum score an eligible provider must achieve to avoid penalty) was maintained at 75 points.
- Performance Category Weights for performance year 2023:
 - Quality: 30%
 - Cost: 30%
 - Promoting Interoperability (25%) and Improvement Activities (15%)
- Changes to Quality Performance Category:
 - Addition of 9 quality measures, including 1 new administrative claims measure, 1 composite measure, 5 high priority measures, and 2 new patient-reported outcome measures
 - Administrative claims measures will be scored exclusively against performance period benchmarks
 - The definition of a high priority measure was expanded to also include health equity-related quality measures
- Improvement Activities Category remains largely unchanged (4 new ones were added, 2 of which relate to promoting health equity, 5 were modified and 6 were removed)
- Changes to Promoting Interoperability (PI) Category:
 - MIPS participants now **MUST** report on the Query of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
 - MIPS participants can obtain 5 bonus points for reporting a “yes” on any of the following 3 optional measures:
 - Public Health Registry Reporting measure
 - Clinical Data Registry Reporting measure
 - Syndromic Surveillance Reporting measure
 - Automatic reweighting of the PI category will continue to be applied by CMS for small practices.



- MIPS Value Pathways are optional for QPP participants in 2023. CMS finalized five new MVPs for 2023, two of which focus on neurologic conditions:
 - “Optimal Care for Patients with Episodic Neurological Conditions MVP” focuses on the clinical theme of promoting quality care for patients suffering from episodic neurologic conditions
 - “Supportive Care for Neurodegenerative Conditions MVP” focuses on the clinical theme of promoting care for patients with cognitive-based neurologic disorders such as dementia, Parkinson’s disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

To review your MIPS eligibility or learn more about the QPP, visit: <https://qpp.cms.gov>. You may also reach out to the policy department at AANEM with QPP questions at: policy@aanem.org.

