

Medicare Quality Payment Program 2021 Update

Under the [Medicare Quality Payment Program \(QPP\)](#), clinicians can participate in two tracks for payment purposes based on their practice size, specialty, location, or patient population: the [Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\)](#) or an [Alternative Payment Model \(APM\)](#).

What are the criteria?

The criteria for clinicians to qualify as a participant in an APM are changing as of January 1, 2021, so the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed a [Quick Start Guide](#) and an [Eligibility Decision Tree](#) to help clinicians determine if they qualify for an APM or if they will need to participate in MIPS in 2021.

What resources are available for primary care practices?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted many new Quality Payment Program (QPP) resources to the [QPP Resource Library: 2020 Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\) User Guides](#): These guides provide details on a variety of topics to help clinicians understand the MIPS 2020 performance period requirements. The guides cover the following: [MIPS 101](#), [Participation and Eligibility](#), [Group Participation](#), [Scoring](#), [Quality Performance Category](#), [Promoting Interoperability Performance Category](#), [Improvement Activities Performance Category](#), [Cost Performance Category](#).

What resources are available for specialty practices?

These guides provide a detailed sample of measures and activities for the 2020 MIPS performance categories relevant to various eligible specialists. Each guide explains how measures and activities are applicable to the individual specialty, includes the weight of each performance category for the MIPS Final Score, and provides information about submitting data. All guides posted in 2019 have been updated for the 2020 performance period. Additionally, CMS has finalized the following **new** guides: [Dermatology Specialty Guide](#); [Gastroenterology Specialty Guide](#); [OB/GYN Specialty Guide](#). The guides can be found in the [QPP Resource Library](#) by using the drop down menu "Resource Type" and sorting by "Specialty Guides."

Are there quality measures that include telehealth?

[2020 Quality Measures List with Telehealth Guidance](#): This resource provides a list of quality measures that currently include telehealth for the 2020 performance period.

What about a list and contact information of survey vendors for CAHPS?

[2020 CAHPS for MIPS Approved Survey Vendors](#): This resource contains the list and contact information of survey vendors who are approved to administer the CAHPS for MIPS Survey for 2020.

For more information, please go to <https://qpp.cms.gov/about/resource-library>, contact your local AHEC practice support coach or reach us at practicesupport@ncahec.net.

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