

2020 MIPS: Key Changes for Ophthalmology Practices

2020 is the fourth performance year of the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). While many of the requirements for 2020 are the same as they were for previous years, there are a few key changes that ophthalmology practices should be aware of to be successful in the program. This guide outlines key changes for 2020. For other resources, including in-depth guides to each of the categories of MIPS, visit the ASCRS ASOA MACRA Center web page at ascrs.org/macracenter.

Key 2020 MIPS Changes

MIPS Performance Threshold

- The 2020 MIPS performance threshold is 45 points, increased from 30 points in 2019. Physicians and practices must score at least 45 total points to avoid a 9% penalty in 2022.
- The exceptional performance threshold increased to 85 points.
- Because the MIPS program is budget neutral, the highest bonus levels have not reached total possible available in past years—a trend that is expected to continue. However, with the increased possible penalty and increased requirements in the MIPS program, CMS estimates that bonuses in 2022 for participants who score 100 points could reach upward of 5%.

Cost Category

- Cost will count for 15% of a physician's final MIPS score in 2020—no change since 2019.
- CMS modified the attribution methodology in the total per capita cost measure to exclude ophthalmologists and optometrists.
- Physicians and groups do not need to submit any data for this category. CMS will calculate the score based on administrative claims.

Quality Reporting

- The data completeness threshold increased to 70% of Medicare Part B patients if reporting through claims, and 70% of all patients, regardless of payer, if reporting electronically or through the registry.
- Two cataract outcome measures were removed:
 - Measure 192, Cataracts: Complications within 30 Days Following Cataract Surgery Requiring Additional Surgical Procedures, and
 - Measure 388, Cataract Surgery with Intra-Operative Complications (Unplanned Rupture of Posterior Capsule Requiring Unplanned Vitrectomy).

Improvement Activities

- Modified group reporting to require that at least 50% of the group participants complete the reported activity. Group members completing the activity do not have to complete the activity during the same 90-day period.

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