What is MACRA?  
5 Things You Need to Know

1. MACRA is the New Medicare Part B Physician Payment System
   • The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) replaces the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula for determining Medicare payments for health care providers’ services.
   • Represents a new framework for rewarding health care providers for giving better care not just more care.
   • Combines Medicare’s existing physician quality reporting programs into one new system.

2. Physicians can Follow Two Paths that Link Quality to Payments:
   • The Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS); or
   • Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs)*.
   * Only models with shared savings & losses, such as Medicare Shared Savings, and Next Generation ACO

3. MIPS Includes 4 Performance Categories:
   • Quality (formerly the Physician Quality Reporting System)
   • Resource Use (replaces current value modifier cost measures)
   • Advancing Care Information (formerly the EHR Meaningful Use program)
   • Clinical Practice Improvement Activities (new)

4. The New Payment System Closer than You Think
   • CMS will begin measuring performance via MIPS in 2017
   • 2019 payments based on 2017 performance
   • Final regulations imminent

5. CMS will Allow Physicians to “Pick Their Pace” in 2017
   • No negative payment adjustments in 2019 if a physician chooses one of four options:
   1. Submit some MIPS information, including data from after January 1, 2017.
   2. Submit MIPS information for a reduced number of days and potentially qualify for a small positive payment adjustment.
   3. Submit information for a full calendar year and potentially quality for a modest positive payment adjustment.
   4. Join an APM in 2017 and if enough Medicare payments or patients through the APM, qualify for a 5% incentive payment in 2019.