



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 qualify 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.