

## Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 2017

Information and important dates for providers as the MIPS gets under way in 2017. For questions, contact Kay J. Moyer [kmoyer@idsociety.org](mailto:kmoyer@idsociety.org).

1. Low Medicare Volume Participation Exemptions from the MIPS program: For 2017, Low-Volume threshold has been set at less than or equal to \$30,000 in Medicare Part B allowed charges OR less than or equal to 100 Medicare patients.
2. Low-Volume exemption notices will be sent to providers in early 2017. If the provider does not receive a letter specifically stating that the provider is exempt from participating in MIPS then the provider needs participate to avoid a payment penalty. Note, make sure that the mailing address the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) has on file is correct and up to date. Visit the [PECOS](#) website to verify the mailing address that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid has on file.
3. Requirements to meet the minimum threshold and to avoid the payment penalty in 2019 are as simple as reporting 1 quality measure or 1 improvement activity.
4. The IDSA website has valuable information for getting started in MIPS including quality measures and improvement activities that may be applicable for ID physicians. [IDSA Resources for MIPS](#).
5. Performance Period for the 2019 payment adjustment started January 1, 2017 and ends December 31, 2017. To avoid a payment penalty in 2019, submit the minimum amount of 2017 data to Medicare. Minimum amount of data is defined as one quality measure OR one improvement activity OR four or five required advancing care information measures.
6. Submit quality performance data any time after January 1, 2017 but before March 31, 2018. If reporting an activity for 90 consecutive days, must start the 90 day period no later than October 2, 2017.
7. Reporting of Improvement Activities will be a simple yes or no attestation that the clinician performed an improvement activity. CMS has not yet provided the details of what the attestation program/platform will look like, however CMS estimates that the attestation portal will not be available until 2018.
8. To meet the requirements of MIPS, if one physician in a group, which is reporting as a group under the same Tax ID, successfully participates in the MIPS, the entire group is successful.
9. The Quality Payment Program website contains information on MIPS, including participation guidelines, measure specifications, webinar information, and access to the help desk.
  - a. Quality Payment Program website: [Medicare Quality Payment Program](#)
  - b. Quality Payment Program Service Center. The help desk is available Monday – Friday 8:00 AM–8:00 PM ET: Phone: 1-866-288-8292: Email: [QPP@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:QPP@cms.hhs.gov)
10. IDSA continues to advocate for infectious diseases physicians and their role in the Quality Payment Program by submitting comment letters, participating in stakeholder meetings, and working with CMS to ensure adequate representation of ID physicians in payment reform.