



CMS: Providers can skip 2019 MIPS reporting due to coronavirus crisis

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March 22, 2020

As part of the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CMS has announced relief measures for providers who are bound to participate in its quality reporting programs, including the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

First, CMS is extending the deadline for submission of 2019 MIPS data from March 31, 2020, to April 30, 2020. Second, and perhaps most significantly, if no MIPS data is submitted by MIPS-eligible clinicians by the April 30 deadline, those clinicians will automatically qualify for the existing "extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy" and will be guaranteed a neutral (0%) Medicare Part B payment adjustment for the 2021 MIPS payment year.

"This is being done to reduce the data collection and reporting burden on providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic," CMS writes in a statement announcing the new measures. "CMS recognizes that quality measure data collection and reporting for services furnished during this time period may not be reflective of their true level of performance on measures such as cost, readmissions and patient experience during this time of emergency and seeks to hold organizations harmless for not submitting data during this period."

The agency says it is still "evaluating options for providing relief" when it comes to MIPS reporting in 2020, for which data submission would be due in March 2021 to affect Medicare payments in 2022. A link to the full CMS statement is available at:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.