Key Changes to the CY 2020 Quality Payment Program (QPP) Participation

On November 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a final rule with updates to the Quality Payment Program (QPP) for CY 2020 and beyond. Below we highlight and focus on the top 4 key changes for 2019 MIPS participation to help you and your practice prepare for the upcoming year.

1. **Performance Threshold Increased to 45 Points**
   The MIPS final score and related payment adjustment is based on their final performance score in all four MIPS categories compared to the MIPS performance threshold for the performance year. This threshold has been increased to 45 points for the 2020 performance year.

   CMS also increased the additional exceptional performance threshold to 85 points for the 2020 performance year.

2. **2019 Category Weights Maintained for 2020**
   CMS maintained the same Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) category weights for 2020.
3. **Quality Category Data Completeness Criteria Increased from 60% to 80%**
   CMS has increased the data completeness criteria from 60% to 80% for measures reported for the MIPS Quality category. This means that you must now report each measure for at least 80% of applicable patients (i.e., those patients that meet the denominator criteria for each measure).

4. **10 New Episode-Based Measures Finalized for Cost Category**
   CMS finalized 10 new episode-based measures for the Cost category:
   - Acute Kidney Injury Requiring New Inpatient Dialysis
   - Elective Primary Hip Arthroplasty
   - Femoral or Inguinal Hernia Repair
   - Hemodialysis Access Creation
   - Inpatient Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Exacerbation
   - Lower Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage (applies to groups only)
   - Lumbar Spine Fusion for Degenerative Disease, 1-3 Levels
   - Lumpectomy Partial Mastectomy, Simple Mastectomy
   - Non-Emergent Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)
   - Renal or Ureteral Stone Surgical Treatment

   These are in addition to the 8 Cost category measures that were finalized as part of the 2019 QPP Final Rule.

If you would like additional details about the MIPS program and other changes made to the program for the 2020 performance year please visit [PAI’s QPP Resource Center](#) and see [CMS’s 2020 QPP Fact Sheet](#). Please note that these resources were developed for the 2019 performance year, so they may not translate completely over for the 2020 performance year; however, updated materials will be made available in March 2020.