

Your Mission: QPP-SURS

The Quality Payment Program (QPP) aims to improve Medicare by helping clinicians shift to a payment system focused on quality and patient outcomes. Small practices with 15 or fewer clinicians, including those in rural locations, health professional shortage areas, and medically underserved areas are a crucial part of the health care system. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) provides direct technical assistance to help individual Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians and small practices in these settings participate in the program. The QPP—SURS (Small, Underserved, and Rural Support) initiative is comprised of local, experienced organizations that will help clinicians in small and rural practices:

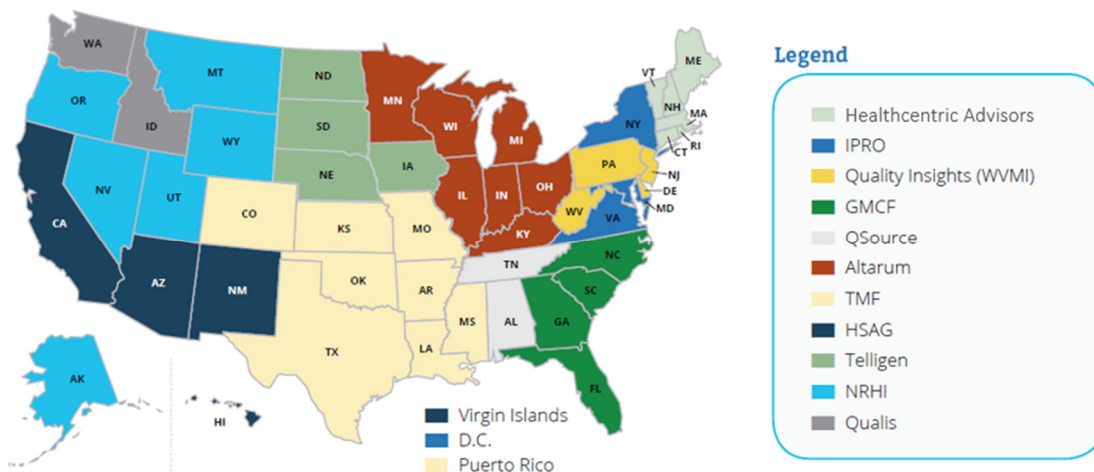
- Select and report on appropriate measures and activities to satisfy the requirements of each performance category under MIPS
- Engage in continuous quality improvement
- Optimize their health information technology (HIT)
- Evaluate their options for joining an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM)

Providing this support to clinicians will help them navigate the Quality Payment Program, while making sure they are able to focus on the needs of their patients.

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This newsletter is produced by IMPAQ International who is functioning as the QPP SURS Central Support contractor. Questions or suggestions about the newsletter can be sent to QPPSURS@IMPAQINT.COM.



QPP-SURS Contractors

SURS Contractors add an additional layer to the multi-level outreach effort to help eligible clinicians understand, prepare for, and participate in the Quality Payment Program.

Customized Direct Technical Assistance:

- Supporting change management and strategic planning; and
- Evaluate their options for joining an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM).

Collaborating with Others:

- Quality Innovation Networks – Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIOs)
- Small, Underserved, and Rural Support (SURS)
- Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI)
- APM Learning Networks

General email addresses and specific points of contact for each SURS contractor can be found below.

QPP SURS Contractors

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Websites

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

<https://www.cms.gov>

Quality Payment Program

qpp.cms.gov

Healthcare Communities

healthcarecommunities.org

APM Learning Model Support List

<http://innovation.cms.gov>

Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative

innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/transforming-clinical-practices/

Quality Improvement Organizations

<http://qioprogram.org/>

Contact US

QPP SURS Central Support Team

(202) 774 1060

qppsurs@impaqint.com

QPP SURS CMS Team

1 866 288 8292

1 877 715 6222 (TTY)

qpp@cms.hhs.gov

Healthcare Communities Website: Healthcarecommunities.org

QPP-SURS Portal on Healthcare Communities Site

The QPP-SURS portal on the Healthcare Communities website will feature the following resources:

- LAN webinar materials
- Conference sessions
- Other resources developed by QPP-SURS focused on challenges facing small groups transitioning to MIPS—especially in rural and medically underserved areas
- Summaries of best practices
- Links to sites with other MIPS resources

A section of the portal will require login and will provide the following resources to TACs:

- QPP-SURS Referral spreadsheets
- Monthly reports
- Project dashboards and ad hoc analysis summaries
- Other reports and evaluation materials

The portal is expected go live soon! You will receive an invitation via email to join the community, along with instructions on how to set up your profile. Additional members may submit a request to be added through the website.

SURS Spotlight: TMF Kickoff Meeting

On April 19, TMF hosted a virtual kickoff meeting for its small group practices to introduce the program and answer questions. A few of the questions and answers from the meeting are included below to provide a snapshot of what the small group practices are thinking about as they prepare for QPP.

Q: We are currently transitioning EHR portals for some of our clinicians and they may not meet the Advancing Care Information requirements. What should we do?

A: There are quality and improvement activities that don't require an EHR system to increase your score. Even without the EHR, you can still see a positive adjustment this year.

Q: If I want to just do the basic one-time reporting, can that be done through claims?

A: Yes. If you go with the test pace, you can submit one measure via a claim. Our consultants can also help you to find the measure to report.

Q: How do you report data through the registries?

A: CMS just updated a list of the registries available for 2017 that are similar to the registries for PQRS. Some of them extract data for you and some require manual submission. You can access the list here: [https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP MIPS 2017 Qualified Registries.pdf](https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP_MIPS_2017_Qualified_Registries.pdf). You can also report data through claims or EHRs.

May is Mental Health Month

In 2016, behavioral health disorders cost almost \$200 billion to treat and one in four primary care patients suffer from depression. Many small group practices struggle treating mental health issues and many behavioral health specialists operate within small group practices. MIPS encourages practices to measure quality in priority areas and to engage in clinical practice improvement activities. Measuring and improving systems to care for patients with mental health conditions are options for preparing for MIPS and providing better care for patients experiencing behavioral health challenges.

QPP-SURS Project Highlights

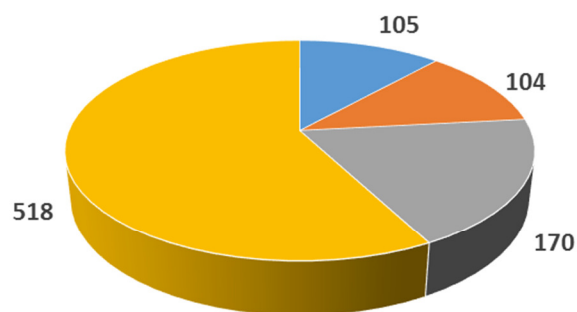
There are a number of highlights to report on the work that the SURS have accomplished on the project thus far. CMS recently asked the SURS to generate target commitments for active participation by eligible clinicians in the Quality Payment Program. Subsequently, all of the SURS affirmed a commitment to the 90% active participation goal and provided a corresponding number of those who need to participate. SURS also outlined actions they are taking to ensure that the eligible clinicians who have been identified actively participate in QPP. SURS also submitted responses to CMS that outlined a plan of action to create awareness and education and provided an assessment to identify possible gaps, assist with improvements, and support clinicians throughout the reporting process. Highlights regarding referrals and engagement activities can be found below.

Success with Referrals to Date

100% of 500+ referrals handled within 1 business day through April 21

Measurement of Engagement Activities to Date

Engagement Activities through April 18



- Number of Webinars Held
- Number of Presentations Given
- Number of Media Exposures (ex. interviews, press releases, etc.)
- Number of Social Media Posts (ex. Facebook, Blog Posts, LinkedIn, etc.)