

## Medicare Learning Network

The Medicare Learning Network (MLN) provides free educational materials for health care professionals on CMS programs, policies, and initiatives. The MLN Learning Management System (LMS) delivers free 24/7 access to web-based training (WBT) courses. CMS provides continuing education credit for most courses. In order to gain access to the courses, visit the following page to create an account: <https://learner.mlnlms.com/UserAccount/NewUserAccount.aspx>.

Relevant courses include:

**The Quality Payment Program (QPP) Overview**, a 37 minute webinar that discusses the origin and goals of the program; recognize the four performance categories within the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS); identifies the three criteria to be considered an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (Advanced APM); and provides resources available for QPP.

**The Quality Payment Program in 2017: Pick Your Pace**, a 25 minute webinar that provides an opportunity to learn about if your medical practice needs to participate in QPP in 2017; identifies the basic steps to take to participate in the program; and selects factors to consider when deciding how to pick a pace in the program.

For more information, visit the MLN website: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNGenInfo/Index.html>.

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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](mailto:QPPSURS@impaqint.com).

## Quality Payment Program Website

The Quality Payment Program website hosts a wealth of resources, including an interactive tool to determine participation status, detailed information regarding Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) and the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). The site provides an overview of MIPS measures and activities, as well as resource library with links to information to help you prepare for success in the Quality Payment Program.

Visit <https://qpp.cms.gov/> today to learn more.



## SURS Spotlight: NRHI

HealthInsight, a partner in NRHI's SURS, worked with leadership at Intermountain Healthcare to provide QPP educational sessions to the clinicians across the state of Utah in April, reaching a broad range of specialty and primary care clinicians and practice representatives. HealthInsight gave the highly interactive presentation on QPP at four regional Intermountain venues to both employed and community clinicians. Over 100 attended in-person or at remote sites through live web-streaming made available during one session. Interest level was high but when asked about their intent to participate in QPP, many attendees were still gathering information before deciding. Following the events, emails with links to the PowerPoint slides were sent to all registrants, representing a total of 115 individuals reached through this effort.

### HealthIT.gov Website

[HealthIT.gov](http://HealthIT.gov) provides detailed information on the benefits of Health IT, key steps and considerations for implementation, and practical tips for providers at all stages of implementation and use. The website contains success stories specifically featuring small group practices and providers in rural settings. Some common themes from the success stories include:

- Collaborate closely with your EHR vendor for continuous support and access to critical training and advisors.
- If implementing a new EHR system, contact your EHR vendor to connect you to another practice that is already using the same EHR platform. This gives you an opportunity to see the platform in use and hear about other provider experiences firsthand.
- Engage with your staff every step of the way to address their concerns and integrate them into the implementation process (e.g., discussing what features they want to see in an EHR system and training them to use the interface).
- EHR champions do not have to be clinicians. Many practices have had success with office managers and nurses acting as champions to implement a new EHR system.
- Engage and educate your patients about the benefits of EHRs. Just as providers might be reluctant to adopt EHRs, patients may also be reluctant to take advantage of the various features in EHRs, such as patient portals.
- Proactively anticipate and adapt to workflow disruptions caused by EHRs. Minimize the burden on staff and clinicians by hiring new staff, distributing tasks across staff, and engaging volunteers (e.g., students). Also, consider reducing the number of patients while the EHR is first being implemented.

Visit [HealthIT.gov](http://HealthIT.gov) for more information and to sign up for email updates.

## Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

### 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](http://innovation.cms.gov)

**Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative**

<http://>

[innovation.cms.gov/](http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/)

[initiatives/](http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/)

[transformingclinical-](http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/transformingclinical-practices/)

[practices/](http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/transformingclinical-practices/)

### CONTACT US

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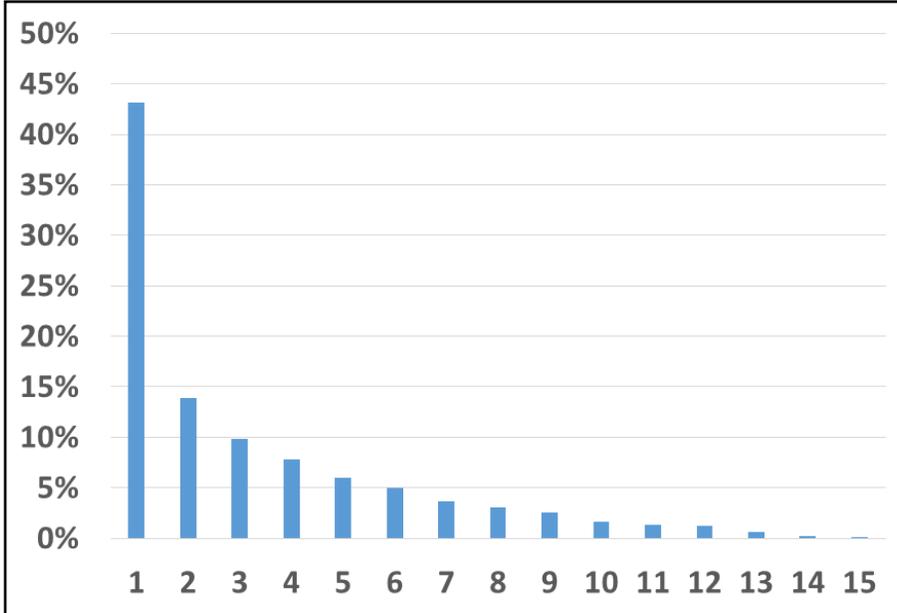
[qpp@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:qpp@cms.hhs.gov)



June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Worldwide, 47 million people are living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Many small group practices deal with the challenge of treating Alzheimer's patients. MIPS encourages practices to measure quality in priority areas and to engage in clinical practice improvement activities. Monitoring and working to improve on measures including care planning, elder care, depression screening and other relevant MIPS measures can help clinicians provide quality care for these patients as well as for family members that may be helping to care for them.

# Who Are MIPS-Eligible Clinicians in Small Group Practices?

PERCENT OF CLINICIANS IN SMALL GROUP PRACTICES WITH 1-15 PROVIDERS



Clinicians in MIPS-Eligible Small Group Practices in the U.S.:

**179,000**

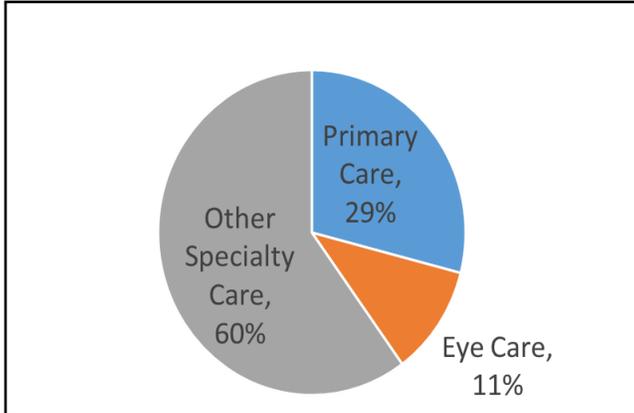
Hospital-Based Clinicians in MIPS-Eligible Small Group Practices:

**23,900**

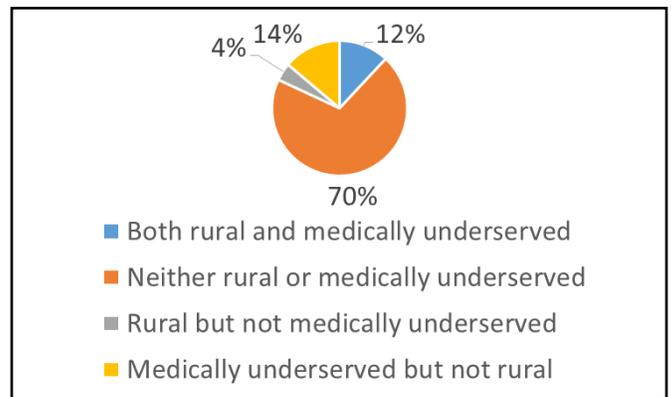
Non-Patient Facing Clinicians in MIPS-Eligible Small Group Practices:

**19,600**

MIPS-ELIGIBLE CLINICIANS IN SMALL GROUP PRACTICES BY CARE TYPE



MIPS-ELIGIBLE CLINICIANS IN SMALL GROUP PRACTICES BY POPULATION THEY SERVE



## Upcoming SURS Events

**QPP Contractors monthly call on Thursday, July 13 at 3pm ET**

Register here: <https://qualitynet.webex.com/qualitynet/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0787397491df5bf3e6834ceb853ab2b8>

### Submit Suggestions for August 3 Collaborative Contractor Call

Do you have a recommendation for a topic, best-practice, innovation, or strategy specific to small group practices that should be highlighted? Send your thoughts to the QPP SURS inbox: [qppsurs@impaqint.com](mailto:qppsurs@impaqint.com).