

Massachusetts Quality Payment Program Newsletter

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This monthly newsletter serves to deliver Quality Payment Program (QPP) information to eligible clinicians, physician office staff, and professionals from other healthcare settings in Massachusetts.



August is National Immunization Awareness Month!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Learn more about National Immunization Awareness Month, the Massachusetts Immunization Information System, this month's Specialty Spotlight: Family Medicine, why immunizations are critical to maintaining good health, the release of the QPP Proposed Rule for Year 3, the targeted review deadline extension, and the Aunt Bertha search and referral platform!



National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of getting vaccinated against infectious diseases and the need for improving national immunization rates. NIAM is celebrated by communities across the country each year to raise awareness about the important role vaccines play in preventing serious, sometimes deadly, diseases across the lifespan. The National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) developed a communications toolkit, which contains key messages, vaccine information and links to web resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other organizations for raising general immunization awareness among individuals.

Download the NIAM toolkit: <https://bit.ly/2va1JsZ>

General immunization information from NPHIC:

<https://www.nphic.org/niam-resources>



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEBINAR: QPP 2019 proposed Rule - What You Need to Know Now

Thursday, Aug. 9
2:00-3:00pm

Register here:

<https://conta.cc/2NN17QW>

WEBINAR: How to Maximize your EHR Use to Succeed in MIPS

Tuesday, Aug. 14
3:30-4:30pm

Register here:

<https://adobe.ly/2K8pDP7>

Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) – A Web-based Immunization Registry

WEBINAR: How to Maximize your EHR Use to Succeed in MIPS

Approximately 50,000 Americans die due to diseases that are vaccine-preventable. (<https://go.cms.gov/2vrlr3l>)

The Massachusetts Department of Health offers the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) for healthcare providers and families to ensure they are immunized based on latest information recorded. MIIS is a confidential and web-based tool designed to serve the needs of an electronic health record (EHR) through electronic data exchange and has options to support non-EHR users as well. MIIS allows for the easy access of data from multiple site, thereby enabling the sharing of immunization records. This tool helps with decision-making for population health, disease control, and preparation for disaster management, such as pandemics. For more information about MIIS, click here: (<https://bit.ly/2KzCnJK>).

If you are an eligible clinician or group participating in the QPP, reporting to MIIS will help earn points in the Promoting Interoperability (PI) performance category. Eligible clinicians and groups can attest to 'Immunization Registry Reporting' to earn points under the PI performance measures. The score weight for this measure is 5%.

For more information about Immunization Registry Reporting, click here: (<https://bit.ly/2KyRt2t>).



Thursday, Aug. 16
11:00am-12:00pm
Register here:
<https://adobe.ly/2K8pDP7>

MIPS Practice Success - Lessons from Year 1 Maximizing Your Workflow for Successful MIPS YEAR 2 Reporting
Tuesday, Aug. 21
12:00-1:00pm
Register here:
<https://bit.ly/2MoDVbr>

Open Call: Quality Payment Program
Wednesday, Aug. 29
11:30-12:30pm
Sign up here:
<https://bit.ly/2yLwvFH>

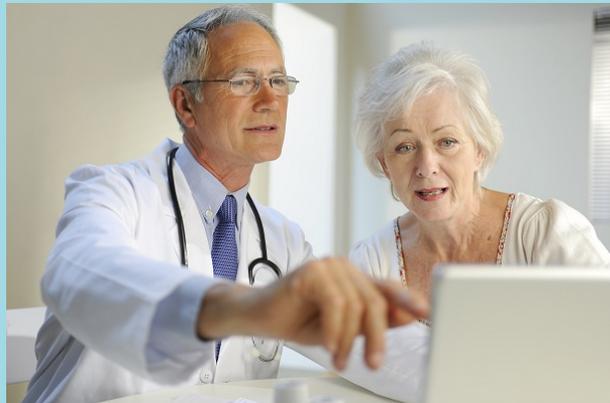
Open Call: Quality Payment Program
Wednesday, Sept. 12
11:030-12:30pm
Sign up here:
<https://bit.ly/2yLwvFH>

Specialty Spotlight: Family Medicine

With August being the National Immunization Awareness Month, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the Immunization related quality measures that can be reported for MIPS.

Here are a few immunization related quality measures:

- **Quality ID: 110, 'Preventative Care and Screening: Influenza Immunization'**
 - **Some Facts:** Every year in the United States, millions of people get sick, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized and thousands or tens of thousands of people die from influenza (flu). The best and most important step to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older receive a flu vaccine. Medicare and many private insurers cover the cost for the influenza vaccine and administration for the beneficiaries. No co-payment is required and the patient does not have to meet his/her deductible to utilize this benefit.
 - **For Healthcare Professionals:** Read more on dosage and administration here: <https://bit.ly/2vNpu9W>
- **Quality ID: 111, 'Pneumococcal Vaccination Status for Older Adults'**
 - **Some Facts:** Pneumococcal disease is common in young children, but older adults are at greatest risk of serious illness and death. There are two vaccines that help prevent pneumococcal disease. The CDC recommends pneumococcal vaccination for all children younger than 2 years and all



adults 65 years or older. Medicare covers one pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine for all beneficiaries. Medicare will also cover a booster vaccine for high risk persons if 5 years have passed since the last vaccination. No co-payment is required and the patient does not have to meet his/her deductible to utilize this benefit.

- **For Healthcare Professionals:** Read more on dosage & administration here: <https://bit.ly/2nmRptx>
- **Quality ID: 240, 'Childhood Immunization Status'**
 - **Some Facts:** Vaccination is one of the best ways parents can protect infants, children and teens from potentially life threatening diseases. Vaccine-preventable diseases can be deadly- especially to small children.
 - **For Healthcare Professionals:** Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2xSNZEU>
- **Quality ID: 394, 'Immunization for Adolescents'**
 - **Some Facts:** Starting at age 11 or 12, the CDC recommends four vaccines for almost all children: Meningococcal, HPV, Tdap & Influenza. For some vaccines, it takes only one shot to protect adolescents. Others require two or three doses to fully guard against diseases or infections. Each shot is important. If adolescents have chronic health problems, are getting certain kinds of medical treatment, or will be traveling abroad in the near future, they may need additional vaccines.
 - **For Healthcare Professionals:** Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2Oiuk6C>

For more information on the above measures, click here: <https://bit.ly/2N9mnAb>

Clinicians should also consider what insurance coverage is available for immunizations and ensure that patients are well informed about potential costs or reimbursement. The Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website lists coverage for immunizations here: <https://go.cms.gov/2nptqdf>.



Once Eradicated Diseases Making a Comeback?

The CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) classify more than two dozen diseases as vaccine preventable or potentially preventable. However, the incidence of these diseases occurring has been rising in recent years, even in countries with a high standard of living and universal access to vaccines. In the United States, outbreaks of such diseases often occur as a result of children and adults not receiving the recommended vaccines. The CDC noted that in 2014, the re-emergence of measles prompted a warning from US health officials as the rate of infection in the US had doubled from the previous year and it was thought to be due to (in part) reduced immunization of children and adults. Vaccines are beneficial in preventing disease, they are designed to use the body's own immune system as protection. It is crucial to educate patients on how vaccines work, why they are important, and any potential risks. For more information, please see the links below!

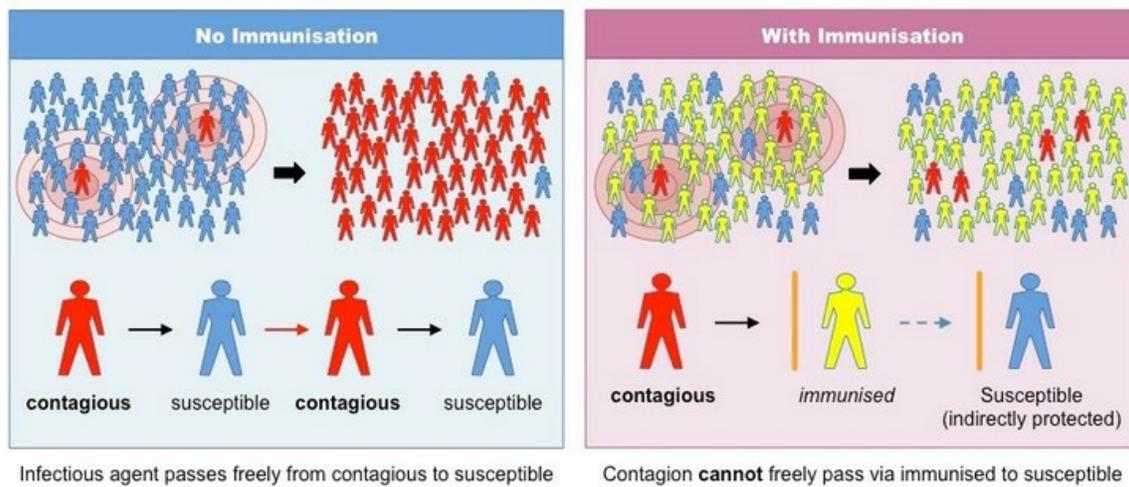


Image credit: Huffington Post, *Why Is Measels Making An Unpleasant Comeback?*, <https://bit.ly/2n1JHoh>

CDC: Vaccine Educational Resources, <https://bit.ly/2cKgg50>

Medscape article: *Reemergence of 5 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*, <https://bit.ly/2O4x0Vs>

Huffington Post article: *Why Is Measels Making An Unpleasant Comeback?*, <https://bit.ly/2n1JHoh>



QPP Year 3 Proposed Rule

CMS has released the QPP Proposed Rule for Program Year 3 and with it come some pretty big anticipated changes.

- The MIPS performance threshold may increase from 15 points to 30 points for performance year 2019.
- Similar to the calculation from performance year 2018, the low-volume threshold remains set at \$90,000 or more in Medicare Part B claims (for professional services from the Physician Fee Schedule) billed annually and the provision of care for at least 200 beneficiaries annually. There is a proposal to add a third component to the calculation, which would include billing for at least 200 professional services annually.
- Starting in 2019, clinicians or groups may choose to opt-in to MIPS if they meet or exceed one or two but not all of the low-volume threshold criteria.
- There are other proposed changes related to the addition of several eligible clinician types, which include: Physical therapists, Occupational therapists, Clinical social workers, and Clinical psychologists.
- Eligible clinicians and groups will be required to have 2015 Certified EHR Technology (CEHRT)

Would you like to comment on the Proposed Rule? Comments may be submitted electronically or via post mail to CMS. The deadline is September 10, 2018. The above list is only a small sample of the changes from the Proposed Rule for performance year 2019. Click the links below to read the fact sheet or to read through the entire proposed rule!

Fact Sheet: <https://go.cms.gov/2KTGKo3>

Proposed Rule: <https://bit.ly/2LfoBNX>

CMS Extends Deadline for MIPS Targeted Review to October 1, 2018



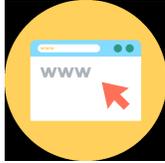
MIPS eligible clinicians and groups can request a targeted review after reviewing their final performance feedback. Targeted review requests will need to be submitted through the CMS Quality Payment Program portal (<https://qpp.cms.gov/login>) using your EIDM account credentials. Requests can be submitted until **October 1, 2018**.



Aunt Bertha – The ‘at your fingers’ Resource

The [Aunt Bertha](#) Search and Referrals Platform provides instant access to comprehensive, localized listings with hundreds of programs in every zip code in the United States. Aunt Bertha makes it easy for organizations helping people with social needs to find and make referrals to appropriate programs and services for food, shelter, health care, work, financial assistance and more. Aunt Bertha works with organizations in health care, education, government, child welfare, corrections and more to provide a measurable platform to find accessible programs and make social needs-based referrals.

All you need to do is enter your zip code to access this resource:
<https://about.auntbertha.com/>



USEFUL LINKS

- **CMS QPP Website:** <https://qpp.cms.gov/>
- **CMS Portal:** <https://qpp.cms.gov/login>
- **CMS QPP Resource Library:**
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Resource-Library/Resource-library.html>
- **New England QIN-QIO MACRA Website:** <http://neqpp.org/>
- **MIPS Participation Status Lookup Tool:**
<https://qpp.cms.gov/participation-lookup>



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

You're Invited to Join The Learning Center!

We know that education is a key strategy to maintaining quality and improving outcomes. Our online education system, The Learning Center, provides a selection of educational materials and resources to all healthcare providers at NO cost, available 24/7 from any device. Visit www.Learning4Quality.org to access materials, or create an account if you do not currently have one.

QUESTIONS?



Ask online:

<http://neqpp.org/ask-question/>

Ask in an open call:

Next call is Wednesday, August 29, from 11:30am-12:30pm

Sign up for call details and reminders here: <https://bit.ly/2yLvwfH>

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