

Key Takeaways

National Perspectives Panel: How Will the QPP Improve Health and Reduce Costs?



MACRA is here to stay.

Regardless of what happens to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), MACRA is unlikely to go away – it has bi-partisan support, and implementation is already underway. The debate around the ACA has been a big distraction from preparing for MACRA, and sometimes MACRA and ACA dynamics can be confused. People do not know what MACRA is but are really worried about what it is; the lack of MACRA awareness is a huge challenge, especially because it leads to a lack of preparedness. Practices and providers should participate now to avoid penalty, and to set themselves up for success in future years, when the stakes are higher.



There is an important focus on easing administrative burden.

Many of the "new" requirements are revisions to the current fee-for-service program, and compared to past frameworks, the QPP represents some big improvements. One of CMS's major MACRA implementation goals is to reduce administrative burden, and to go slow and collect feedback to find ways to streamline – this approach is what led to the “pick-your-pace” approach to MIPS, and the flexibility or exemption for clinicians with a low-volume of Medicare patients and those who have limited face-to-face encounters¹.



Several organizations are producing resources available to help practices and providers successfully participate.

Practices and providers have access to lots of no-cost QPP information and resources, including:

- CMS Quality Payment Program website - www.qpp.cms.gov
- American Medical Association - www.ama-assn.org/MACRA
- HealthInsight Oregon - www.healthinsight.org/qpp

For more key takeaways and materials from the conference, visit:
www.q-corp.org/MACRAPlaybook

¹ Quality Payment Program Fact Sheet: Proposed Rule for Quality Payment Program Year 2 (June 2017)
https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP_Proposed_Rule_for_QPP_Year_2.pdf