



MIPS Year 5 (2021) Removed, Changed & COVID-19 Adopted Improvement Activities

Changes to Previously Adopted Improvement Activities for the MIPS Year 5 (2021)

Activity ID: IA_BE_4

Activity Title: Engagement of patient through implementation of improvements in patient portal

Activity Weight: Medium

Change: Revised Activity Description

New Activity Description: To receive credit for this activity, MIPS eligible clinicians must provide access to an enhanced patient/caregiver portal that allows users (patients or caregivers and their clinicians) to engage in bidirectional information exchange. The primary use of this portal should be clinical and not administrative. Examples of the use of such a portal include, but are not limited to: brief patient reevaluation by messaging; communication about test results and follow up; communication about medication adherence, side effects, and refill; blood pressure management for a patient with hypertension; blood sugar management for a patient with diabetes; or any relevant acute or chronic disease management.

Activity ID: IA_AHE_7

Activity Title: Comprehensive Eye Exams

Activity Weight: Medium

Change: Revised Activity Description

New Activity Description: To receive credit for this activity, MIPS eligible clinicians must promote the importance of a comprehensive eye exam, which may be accomplished by any one or more of the following:

- Providing literature,
- Facilitating a conversation about this topic using resources such as the "Think About Your Eyes" campaign,
- Referring patients to resources providing no-cost eye exams, such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology's EyeCare America and the American Optometric Association's VISION USA, or
- Promoting access to vision rehabilitation services as appropriate for individuals with chronic vision impairment.

This activity is intended for:

- Non-ophthalmologists/optometrists who refer patient to an ophthalmologist/optometrist;
- Ophthalmologists/optometrists caring for underserved patients at no cost; or
- Any clinician providing literature and/or resources on this topic

This activity must be targeted at underserved and/or high-risk populations that would benefit from engagement regarding their eye health with the aim of improving their access to comprehensive eye exams or vision rehabilitation services.

Finalization of IA Previously Adopted in the March 31st COVID-19 IFC and Continued with Modification in the September 2nd COVID-19 IFC

Activity ID: IA_ERP_3

Activity Title: COVID-19 Clinical Data Reporting with or without Clinical Trial

Activity Weight: High

Activity Description: To receive credit for this improvement activity, a MIPS eligible clinician or group must: (1) participate in a COVID-19 clinical trial utilizing a drug or biological product to treat a patient with a COVID-19 infection and report their findings through a clinical data repository or clinical data registry for the duration of their study; or (2) participate in the care of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and simultaneously submit relevant clinical data to a clinical data registry for ongoing or future COVID-19 research. Data should be submitted to the extent permitted by applicable privacy and security laws. Examples of COVID-19 clinical trials may be found on the U.S. National Library of Medicine website at <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19>. In addition, examples of COVID-19 clinical data registries may be found on the National Institute of Health website at <https://search.nih.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=nih&query=COVID19+registries&commit=Search>.

For purposes of this improvement activity, clinical data registries must meet the following requirements: (1) the receiving entity must declare that they are ready to accept data as a clinical registry; and (2) be using the data to improve population health outcomes. Most public health agencies and clinical data registries declare readiness to accept data from clinicians via a public online posting. Clinical data registries should make publicly available specific information on what data the registry gathers, technical requirements, or specifications for how the registry can receive the data, and how the registry may use, re-use, or disclose individually identifiable data it receives. For purposes of credit toward this improvement activity, any data should be sent to the clinical data registry in a structured format, which the registry can receive. A MIPS eligible clinician may submit the data using any standard or format that is supported by the clinician's health IT systems, including but not limited to, certified functions within those systems. Such methods may include, but are not limited to, a secure upload function on a web portal, or submission via an intermediary, such as a health information exchange. To ensure interoperability and versatility of the data submitted, any electronic data should be submitted to the clinical data registry using appropriate vocabulary standards for the specific data elements, such as those identified in the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) standard adopted in 45 CFR 170.213

Improvement Activity REMOVED from MIPS Year 5 (2021) Program Year

Activity ID: IA_CC_5

Activity Title: CMS Partner in Patients Hospital Engagement Network

Removal Rationale: The underlying program, which forms the basis for this improvement activity has expired. The Partner in Patients Hospital Engagement Network activity description requires membership and participation in a CMS Partnership for Patients Hospital Engagement Network which ended March 31, 2020.