



## MAQI Demonstration Waivers Finalized in CMS PFS Rule

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November 7, 2018

CMS finalized its proposal to implement the Medicare Advantage Qualifying Payment Arrangement Incentive (MAQI) Demonstration in CY 2018 in the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule. Click [here](#) for the final rule. *The MAQI discussion begins on page 1436.*

Under the MAQI Demonstration:

- Payment consequences (positive, negative or neutral adjustments) of MIPS and MIPS reporting requirements are waived.
- *Voluntary* reporting will be prohibited by eligible clinicians who participate in the Demonstration and are not subject to MIPS reporting requirements and payment adjustment for a given year to prohibit potential gaming; therefore no MIPS performance feedback.
- Eligible clinicians who participate in the Demonstration but are not excluded from the MIPS reporting requirements and payment adjustment would continue to be MIPS eligible clinicians subject to the MIPS reporting requirement and payment adjustment.
- Eligibility for exclusion from the MIPS reporting requirements and payment adjustment will be determined using thresholds of combined participation in the Qualifying Payment Arrangements and Advanced APMs that are the same as the QP thresholds under the Medicare Option of the QPP.
- Qualifying Payment Arrangements under the MAQI Demonstration will be identified using criteria consistent with those used to identify Other Payer Advanced APMs.

The final rule provides examples of how final scores would be converted to a MIPS payment adjustment factor

CMS anticipates collecting Qualifying Payment Arrangement and threshold information for eligible clinicians participating in the Demonstration starting in late fall of 2018. Final CMS determinations on whether eligible clinicians meet the criteria to be excluded from the MIPS reporting requirements and payment adjustment, based on the submitted information, will be

made by December 2018 (or January 2019 at the latest). Eligible clinicians participating in 2018 will be evaluated to determine whether they meet the criteria to be excluded from MIPS reporting requirements for the 2018 MIPS performance year and from the MIPS payment adjustment for the 2020 MIPS payment year.

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