



MIPS 2026 Final Rule Guide



Eligibility

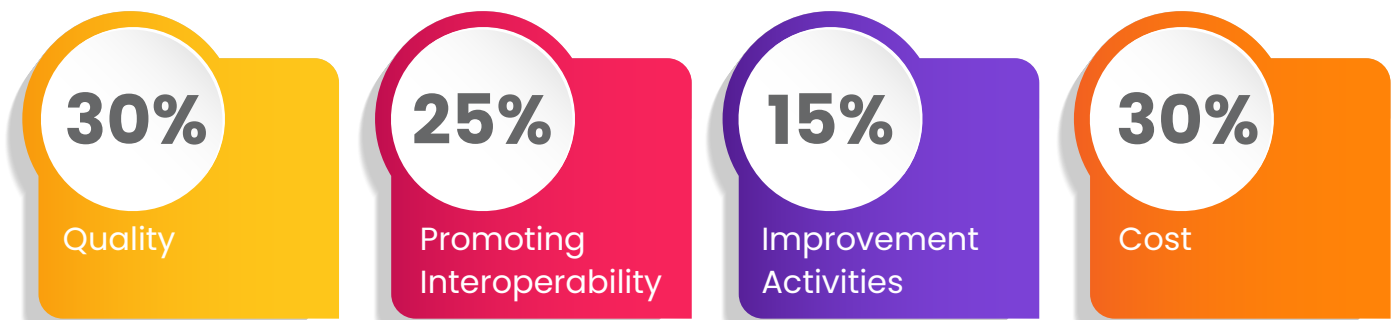
An eligible clinician's status is determined by their individual NPI and the Taxpayer Identification Numbers, or TINs, with which they are associated. For the 2026 performance year, the eligibility thresholds remain unchanged. A clinician or practice qualifies for MIPS when all three of the following criteria are met:

- Billing more than \$90,000 for Medicare Part B covered professional services.
- Seeing more than 200 Medicare Part B patients.
- Providing more than 200 covered professional services to Medicare Part B patients.



Category Weights

The MIPS category weights remain unchanged for the 2026 performance period:



Quality

Quality Measure Inventory

190 Quality measures have been finalized for the 2026 performance period.

New Quality Measures:

There is an addition of 5 Quality measures. Those measures are:

- **Q512:** Prevalent Standardized Kidney Transplant Waitlist Ratio (PSWR) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- **Q513:** Patient Reported Falls and Plan of Care American Academy of Neurology
- **Q514:** Diagnostic Delay of Venous Thromboembolism in Primary Care Brigham and Women's Hospital (eCQM)
- **Q515:** Screening for Abnormal Glucose Metabolism in Patients at Risk of Developing Diabetes American Medical Association (eCQM)
- **Q516:** Hepatitis C Virus (HCV): Sustained Virological Response (SVR) American Gastroenterological Association

Measures with substantive changes:

Substantive changes have been made to 30 existing quality measures.

Data completeness

Data completeness remains the same at 75 percent for 2026 performance period.

Quality Measures Removed:

There were 10 measures removed, including:

- **Measure #185:** Colonoscopy Interval for Patients with a History of Adenomatous Polyps – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use.
- **Measure #264:** Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for Invasive Breast Cancer.
- **Measure #290:** Assessment of Mood Disorders and Psychosis for Patients with Parkinson's Disease.
- **Measure #322:** Cardiac Stress Imaging Not Meeting Appropriate Use Criteria: Preoperative Evaluation in Low-Risk Surgery Patients.
- **Measure #419:** Overuse of Imaging for the Evaluation of Primary Headache.
- **Measure #424:** Perioperative Temperature Management
- **Measure #434:** Non-Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening in Adolescent Females.
- **Measure #487:** Screening for Social Drivers of Health.
- **Measure #498:** Connection to Community Service Provider.
- **Measure #508:** Adult COVID-19 Vaccination Status



30%

Quality

Promoting interoperability

Protect Patient Health Information Objective, Security Risk Analysis Measure

The Security Risk Analysis measure has been modified to include a second attestation component that requires MIPS eligible clinicians to attest “Yes” or “No” to having conducted security risk management as required under the risk management component of the HIPAA Security Rule in addition to existing attestation.

SAFER Guide Measure

The High Priority Practice SAFER Guide measure has been modified to required the use of the 2025 SAFER Guides.

Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange Objective, Adopting the Public Health Reporting Using TEFCA Optional Bonus Measure

A bonus measure has been added toPublic Health and Clinical Data Exchange objective. The new bonus measure is Public Health Reporting Using TEFCA, and it will require clinicians attest that they're in active engagement (validated data production) with a public health agency to transfer health information using TEFCA. Clinicians can earn up to 5 bonus points for reporting this measure.

25%

Promoting
Interoperability



Improvement Activities

New Improvement Activities:

There are 3 new activities for 2026 performance period.

- Improving Detection of Cognitive Impairment in Primary Care.
- Integrating Oral Health Care in Primary Care.
- Patient Safety in Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Improvement Activities Removed:

Activities removed for the 2026 performance period.

- Implement Food Insecurity and Nutrition Risk Identification and Treatment Protocols
- Create and Implement a Plan to Improve Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Patients
- Practice Improvements that Engage Community Resources to Address Drivers of Health
- Vaccine Achievement for Practice Staff: COVID-19, Influenza, and Hepatitis B
- Use of Toolsets or Other Resources to Close Health and Health Care Inequities Across Communities
- COVID-19 Clinical Data Reporting with or without Clinical Trial
- MIPS Eligible Clinician Leadership in Clinical Trials or CBPR
- Create and Implement an Anti-Racism Plan

Cost

Cost Measures Inventory:

No change in Cost Measures inventory for the 2026 performance period.

Total Per Capita Cost (TPCC) Measure:

TPCC measure was updated with the following changes, criteria to reduce attribution to highly specialized groups when attribution is based only on advanced care practitioner billing. Candidate events initiated by an advanced care practitioner are now excluded if all non advanced care practitioners in the group meet specialty exclusions. A second service must be an E M or related primary care service delivered within 90 days by a clinician under the same TIN. That second service must also come from a clinician who is not excluded under specialty rules.

MIPS Value Pathways

New MVPS

The addition of 6 new MVPs* to the MVP inventory:

- Diagnostic Radiology
- Pathology
- Interventional Radiology
- Podiatry
- Neuropsychology
- Vascular Surgery



15%

Improvement
Activities



30%

Cost

Subgroup Reporting: Small Practice Multispecialty Groups

An exception to existing policy for multispecialty practices. Specifically:

- Multispecialty groups with the small practice special status (15 or fewer clinicians) may continue to register to report an MVP as a group.
- Multispecialty groups with the small practice special status aren't required to register as subgroups if they don't want to report as individuals



If you have any questions, please contact our expert MIPS Department at qp@curemd.com or call us at 717-680-8500.

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