

CMS Opens Hardship Application Process under Quality Payment Program for CEHRT

Under CMS' Quality Payment Program, practices and their eligible clinicians are required to use certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT). That requirement will give practices a positive score under the Advancing Care Information performance category when reporting MIPS. If a practice lacks the certified program, they can ask for a hardship under one of three conditions:

- Insufficient Internet Connectivity
- Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances
- Lack of Control over the availability of CEHRT
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If a practice or eligible clinician gets their hardship application approved, the Advancing Care Information category will be reweighted. If the application is not submitted or approved, practices will have to report under that category and potentially receive a "0" score for the category. Approved applications will have the ACI category reweighted to 0 and the points will go to the Quality category.

In early August, CMS opened the application process for submitting for hardship. Practices can find the information they need to complete the application, as well as a link to the application at: <https://qpp.cms.gov/about/hardship-exception>. At the same link there are also several FAQs.

Practices must have the hardship application submitted by December 31 of the performance year. If the application is not approved, they will have to submit data.

Under MIPS for 2018, the hardship category will add an additional exception. More information on 2018 MIPS proposed changes will come from the Quality Reporting Engagement Group over the next several months.

For help with MIPS and the reporting process under CMS, reach our team of experts at insidesales@iononline.com or call 877-570-8721 x2.