



Advocating for Payment Programs That Work for You

PROBLEM: Medicare requirements for reimbursements have long been geared toward primary care physicians and riddled with complex challenges. Congress proposed major changes to this system in legislation called MACRA, but the draft legislation still overlooked the unique needs of non-patient-facing physicians like pathologists.



MACRA ended the broken Sustainable Growth Rate formula.



MACRA established a new framework for rewarding health care providers for quality and cost of care, not just more care.



MACRA combined existing Medicare quality reporting programs (PQRS, Meaningful Use, VBM) into one—MIPS.

PROOF POINTS:

The CAP's advocacy successfully added a provision to MACRA that ensures pathologists have flexibility to participate in new reimbursement models.

CAP members and staff extended the life of CAP quality measures for pathologists enabling credit under PQRS and the new MIPS program.

Additionally, the CAP continues to advocate for:

- Ensuring the broadest number of pathologists qualify for the distinction of non-patient-facing physicians
- Incorporating a wide array of services for demonstrating credit toward clinical practice improvement activities
- Exploring alternative pathology measures for controlling use of health care resources and advancing care through health information technology
- Researching pathology-specific physician-focused payment models as an alternative payment model for pathologists.

MIPS Category Weights for 2017		MIPS Category Weights for 2017: Non-Patient-Facing Physician	
Replaces PQRS; report up to six quality measures	60%	Quality	85%
New category; attest that you completed up to four improvement activities	15%	Clinical Practice Improvement Activities	15%
Replaces EHR Incentive Program: non-patient-facing clinicians do not need to report on this category	25%	Advancing Care Information	0%
Replaces value-based modifier; will not be score for 2017, will start to count in 2018	0%	Resource Use	0%

SOLUTION: What MIPS Means to You

MIPS sets up penalties and bonuses for pathologist/physician reimbursement. Because of CAP's advocacy success with these new measures, pathologists can avoid penalties and are eligible for bonuses if they report correctly.

CAP Measures in the Quality Performance Category

- Breast Cancer Resection Pathology Reporting
- Colorectal Cancer Resection Pathology Reporting
- Barrett Esophagus Pathology Reporting
- Radical Prostatectomy Pathology Reporting
- Evaluation of HER2 for Breast Cancer Patients
- Lung Cancer Reporting (biopsy/cytology specimens)
- Lung Cancer Reporting (resection specimens)
- Melanoma Reporting



MACRA: Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act | PQRS: Physician Quality Reporting System
VBM: Value-Based Modifier | MIPS: Merit-Based Incentive Payment System | EHR: Electronic Health Record