

Health Information Compliance Alert

Promoting Interoperability: Avoid PI Mix Ups With This Handy Comparison Chart

Understand how they differ and impact quality incentives.

If you're confused about the difference between Medicare's Promoting Interoperability (PI) Programs and the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) PI performance category, you're not alone. Using the same name in two completely different programs has caused a lot of confusion for providers, but there are a few clues that will help you figure out which PI-related policies impact your organization.



History: In 2011, the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs - informally referred to as Meaningful Use (MU) - were established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to boost clinicians, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) use of certified EHR technology (CEHRT). However, in 2015, MACRA was signed into law, and it created a separate program - the Quality Payment Program (QPP) - specifically for Medicare eligible clinicians.

"These eligible clinicians who had previously participated in the EHR Incentive Programs" began participating in MIPS, "which is one of two ways to participate in [the] QPP," notes CMS guidance. Originally, the MIPS health IT category was named Advancing Care Information (ACI). But in 2018, the agency renamed ACI, Promoting Interoperability while simultaneously rebranding MU as PI Programs.

Pocket this breakdown on the various nuances and differences between the Medicare PI Programs and MIPS PI performance category for calendar year (CY) 2021 garnered from CMS guidance:



Resources: Find more detailed information on the Medicare PI Programs at www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms and review PI performance category data and guidance at <https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/promoting-interoperability>.