



Support for Small Practices

Practices with 15 or fewer clinicians and practices in rural and health professional shortage areas are a crucial part of the health care system. The Quality Payment Program provides options designed to make it easier for you to report on your performance and qualify for incentives. Physicians in small practices who report their performance can do just as well as mid-sized or larger practices. We expect the number and percentage of small practices participating in the Quality Payment Program to increase and exceed participation in legacy programs (for example, PQRS) because of the reduced reporting burden, increasing usability of technology, and stepped-up technical assistance. There are a number of other flexibilities in the final rule with comment period to help small practices, including exemptions for low volume practices, allowances for patient-centered medical homes, and increased technical assistance.

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MACRA also provides \$20 million each year for five years to fund training and education for Medicare clinicians in individual or small group practices of 15 clinicians or fewer and those working in underserved areas. Beginning December 2016, local, experienced organizations will use this funding to help small practices select appropriate quality measures and health IT to support their unique needs, train clinicians about the new improvement activities and assist practices in evaluating their options for joining an Advanced APM. Providing these tools to help physicians and other clinicians in small practices and practices in underserved areas navigate new programs is key to making sure they are able to focus on what is most important: the needs of their patients.