

Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)

2021 MIPS Promoting Interoperability
Performance Category Hardship
Exception Application Guide



Contents

Already know what MIPS is?
Skip ahead by clicking the links in the Table of Contents.

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <u>How to Use This Guide</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview</u> | <u>5</u> |
| <u>MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information for Individuals, Groups, and Virtual Groups</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Frequently Asked Questions</u> | <u>12</u> |
| <u>MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>Help, Resources, Glossary, and Version History</u> | <u>31</u> |
| <u>Appendix</u> | <u>35</u> |





How to Use This Guide



Please Note: This guide was prepared for informational purposes only and isn't intended to grant rights or impose obligations. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It isn't intended to take the place of the written law, including the regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Table of Contents

The Table of Contents is **interactive**. Click on a Chapter in the Table of Contents to read that section.



You can also click on the icon on the bottom left to go back to the table of contents.

Hyperlinks

Hyperlinks to the [QPP website](#) are included throughout the guide to direct you to more information and resources.

Purpose: This guide will provide general information about the MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception application and provide step-by-step instructions on how to complete the application.



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview

Overview

| | |
|--------------|---|
| What | MIPS Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception Applications allow you to request that your MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category be reweighted to 0%. |
| Who | <p>Individual Clinicians, Groups, Virtual Groups reporting via traditional MIPS or the APM Performance Pathway (APP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Party Intermediaries can submit an application with permission from the clinician or practice. <p>Some clinicians, groups and virtual groups automatically qualify for reweighting of the Promoting Interoperability performance category. If you qualify for automatic reweighting, you don't need to apply for a MIPS Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Appendix A for information about the clinicians, groups and virtual groups that automatically qualify for reweighting of this performance category. |
| Why | <p>You can submit an application to have your MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category reweighted to 0% if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're a small practice • You have insufficient Internet connectivity • You have decertified EHR technology • You lack control over the availability of CEHRT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lacking 2015 Edition CEHRT doesn't qualify as a reason to submit an exception application • You face extreme and uncontrollable circumstances such as a disaster, practice closure, severe financial distress or vendor issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If you experience an extreme and uncontrollable circumstance that impacts multiple performance categories, the Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances exception application may be more suitable for your given circumstance. |
| When | <p>Now through December 31, 2021, 8 p.m. ET. Please note there is NO extension for this application's deadline</p> |
| Where | <p>Sign in to qpp.cms.gov with your HCQIS Access and Roles Profile (HARP) account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information on HARP accounts, please refer to the Register for a HARP Account document in the QPP Access User Guide (ZIP). |
| How | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register for a HARP account 2. Sign in to qpp.cms.gov 3. Select 'Exceptions Application' on the left-hand navigation 4. Select 'Add New Exception' 5. Select 'Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception' 6. Complete the application for individual, group or virtual group participation |

See [Appendix B](#) (traditional MIPS) and [Appendix C](#) (APP) for more information on performance category reweighting.





**MIPS Promoting
Interoperability
Performance Category
Hardship Exception
Information for
Individuals, Groups,
and Virtual Groups**

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information for Individuals, Groups, and Virtual Groups

Overview

You may automatically qualify for reweighting in this performance category.

- See [Appendix A](#).
- If you automatically qualify for reweighting, you don't need to submit an exception application.

You will complete the hardship exception application at the level for which you will report data to MIPS.

- If you are reporting data at the individual level, complete the hardship exception application at the individual level.
- If you are reporting data at the group level, complete the hardship exception application at the group level.
- Note, a group hardship exception application will **only** apply at the group level.
 - If your practice is participating in MIPS at the individual level, don't complete the hardship exception application at the group level. You will complete the hardship exception application at the individual for each clinician (who doesn't automatically qualify for reweighting) to be considered for reweighting.

You can still submit data for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category.

- If your circumstances change and you're able to collect and submit your Promoting Interoperability data, we will disregard your hardship exception and you will be scored in this performance category.
- You will also be scored in this performance category if you attest to any data, such as selecting performance period dates or responding to attestation statements, during the submission period.

You aren't required to submit documentation with your application.

- However, clinicians, groups and virtual groups should retain documentation of their circumstances supporting their application for their own records in the event they are selected by CMS for data validation or audit.



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information for Individuals, Groups, and Virtual Groups

Overview (continued)

You can apply for a MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception if you switch CEHRT vendors during the performance period.

- You would indicate an extreme and uncontrollable circumstances hardship exception and select vendor issues within the application.

The following circumstances qualify as extreme and uncontrollable circumstances for a MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception:

- A natural disaster resulting in damage to or destruction of your CEHRT
- Practice or hospital closure
- Severe financial distress resulting in bankruptcy or debt restructuring
- Vendor issues (such as a change in vendors during the performance period or errors with your CEHRT that your vendor is unable to address)

You may still be able to report if your electronic health record (EHR) product is decertified during the 2021 Performance Year.

- You can still submit your Promoting Interoperability performance category measures collected in your now-decertified EHR product if your performance period ended before the decertification occurred.
- If your performance period ended after the EHR decertification occurred, you can [apply](#) for a MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception and select decertified EHR technology.

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information for Individuals, Groups, and Virtual Groups

Groups and Virtual Groups

To submit an application on behalf of a group, every office location/practice site within the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) must experience the hardship for the group to qualify for the Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception.

- For example, if one office location is within a broadband availability area but the other office(s) for the practice is not, the office with broadband availability would not qualify for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship and must report for those clinicians for whom they have data.

To submit an application on behalf of a virtual group, every office location/practice site for each TIN within the virtual group must experience the hardship for the virtual group to qualify for the Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception.

- For example, if one TIN is within a broadband availability area but the other TIN(s) in the virtual group is not, the TIN with broadband availability would not qualify for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship and must report for those clinicians for whom they have data.



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information for Individuals, Groups, and Virtual Groups

MIPS APM Participants

MIPS eligible clinicians and groups with MIPS eligible clinicians participating in a MIPS APM can apply for hardship exceptions and qualify for automatic reweighting just like other MIPS eligible clinicians.

If you're participating in MIPS at the APM Entity level (either reporting traditional MIPS or the APP), you would complete the application as an individual or group.

- If approved, you will receive the APM Entity's score, but will be excluded from the calculation when we create an average Promoting Interoperability score for the APM Entity.

APM Entities reporting the APP or traditional MIPS can't submit a Promoting Interoperability hardship exception application on behalf of the entire Entity.

- When participating in MIPS as an APM Entity, the Promoting Interoperability performance category is still reported at the individual or group level.

A MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception does not exempt you from reporting on any certified EHR technology (CEHRT) activities required for participation in your APM.





MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Frequently Asked Questions

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Frequently Asked Questions

| Question | Answer |
|--|--|
| <p>Where Can I Look for a Status Update on Our MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception?</p> | <p>You can monitor your application status in your QPP Account on qpp.cms.gov.</p> |
| <p>Can Additional Staff Members Access/Receive Notifications About the Status of the MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application?</p> | <p>Yes, you can add additional staff or representatives who should receive notifications about the status of the application.</p> <p>In the Additional Access section of the application, provide the email address(es) of additional staff or representatives who would like to receive notifications.</p> <p>Please note: the additional staff or representatives must have a HARP credentials in order to see the application on qpp.cms.gov.</p> |
| <p>How Can I Correct a Mistake Made on Our MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception?</p> | <p>If you identified an error with your exception application, please contact the Quality Payment Program at 1-866-288-8292, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) or by e-mail at: QPP@cms.hhs.gov.</p> |



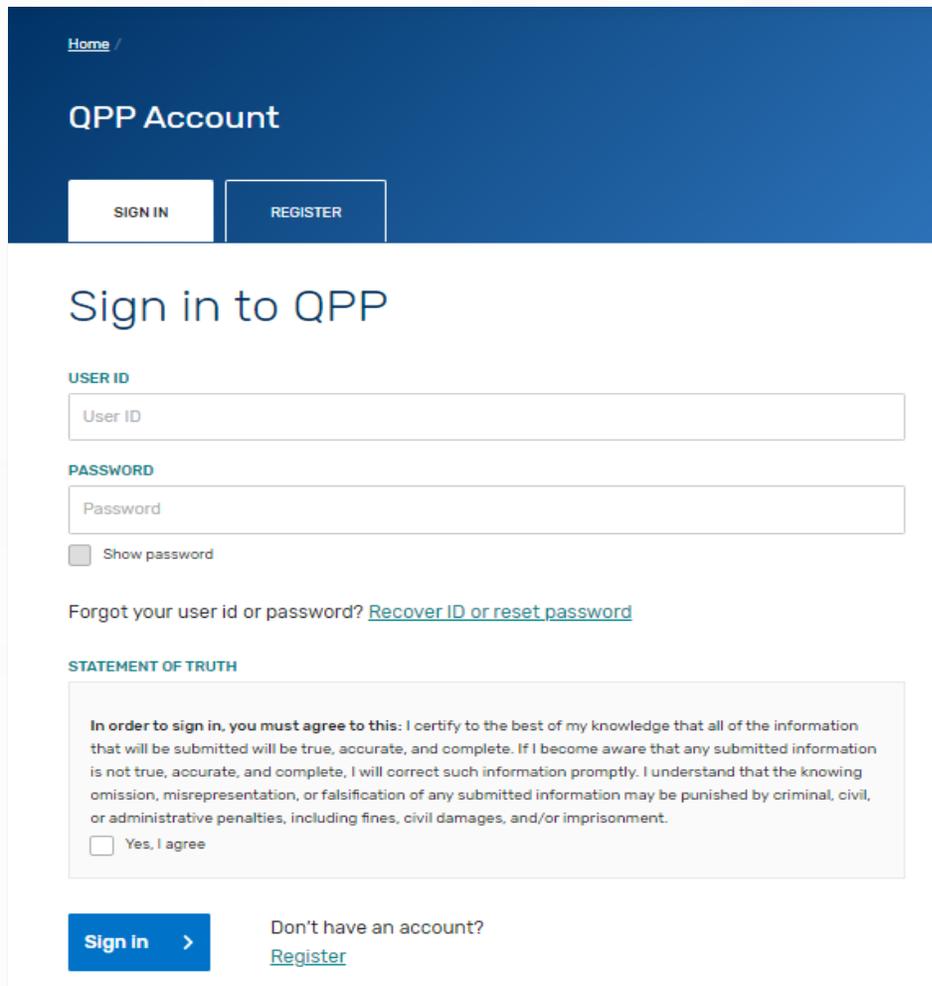


MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 1: Sign in to Your QPP Account

Sign in to your QPP Account at qpp.cms.gov with your HARP credentials.



The screenshot shows the 'QPP Account' sign-in page. At the top, there is a blue header with 'Home /' and 'QPP Account'. Below the header are two buttons: 'SIGN IN' and 'REGISTER'. The main content area is titled 'Sign in to QPP'. It contains a 'USER ID' field with a placeholder 'User ID', a 'PASSWORD' field with a placeholder 'Password', and a 'Show password' checkbox. Below the password field is a link: 'Forgot your user id or password? [Recover ID or reset password](#)'. A 'STATEMENT OF TRUTH' section follows, containing a paragraph of text and a checkbox labeled 'Yes, I agree'. At the bottom, there is a blue 'Sign In >' button and a link: 'Don't have an account? [Register](#)'.

Note: If you haven't signed into qpp.cms.gov before, you must register for an account to obtain your HARP credentials. For more information on how to create an account view the [QPP Account Access Guide \(ZIP\)](#).

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 2: Navigate to Your Exception Applications

Once you are signed into your account select:

- The **Exception Application** tab in the left-hand navigation menu, then click + **Add New QPP Exception**, or
- The **Start an Application** quick link on the home page.

The screenshot shows the user interface for applying for a hardship exception. On the left is a dark blue navigation menu with the following items: Account Home, Exceptions Application (highlighted with a red box), Targeted Review, Manage Access, and Help and Support. The main content area has a blue header with 'Welcome back' and a progress bar with four stages: 1. Mar 17, 2021: Last Day to submit 2021 data (checked); 2. Mar 18, 2021: Preliminary Performance Feedback Available (checked); 3. Summer 2021: Final Performance Feedback is available (unchecked); 4. Jan 3, 2022: Submission Window is open (unchecked). Below the progress bar is a yellow banner titled 'Access to Organizations' with the text 'Once you have received approval to view an organization you will need to refresh your page.' The main content area contains two white cards. The first card is titled 'Exceptions Application' and includes a 'START AN APPLICATION' button (highlighted with a red box). The second card is titled 'Targeted Review' and includes a 'VIEW REQUESTS' button. At the bottom left of the navigation menu is a 'COLLAPSE' button with a double arrow icon.

You can create and submit a new exception request until December 31, 2021.

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 3: Select the Exception Application

Select the **MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception**, then **Continue**.

Add New Exception

Exception Type ?

Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception

MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, and virtual groups may submit a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception Application citing one of the following specified reasons:

- You're a small practice
- You have decertified EHR technology
- You have insufficient internet connectivity
- You face extreme and uncontrollable circumstances such as disaster, practice closure, severe financial distress or vendor issues
- You lack control over the availability of CEHRT

Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception

The Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances application is reserved for instances where there is indeed an Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstance, such as a **natural disaster, public health emergency or other significant event**, that prevents collecting data for an extended period of time, or that could impact performance on cost measures.

All other events such as vendor issues, decertification of EHR, etc. should be filed as a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception.

CANCEL

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 4: Select Application Type

Select the **participation level** of which you intend to participate in MIPS.

← Add New Promoting Interoperability
Hardship Application

Application Type: * ?

Individual

Group

Virtual Group

Clinician NPI * ?

1234567890

Use as test data ?

CANCEL SAVE SAVE & CONTINUE >

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 5: Enter Participation Level Information

Enter the required participation level information.

The required information for each participation level is as follows:

| Participation Level | Required Information |
|----------------------|---|
| Individual Clinician | <ul style="list-style-type: none">National Provider Identifier (NPI)Practice Affiliation |
| Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) |
| Virtual Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Virtual Group Identifier |

PY 2020 OPP EXCEPTION ID: 1137 [VIEW/ADD COMMENTS](#) | [ACTIVITY LOG](#) | ✓ All changes saved [SAVE & CLOSE](#)

Promoting Interoperability Hardship (Individual)

Submission Information * Required

Individual Details

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Clinician NPI 1234567890 Change | Clinician's Name Not defined | Clinician Type Not defined |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|

Group Practice Name * [?](#)

Not listed ▼

Group Practice TIN *

123456789

(Image features application at the individual level)

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 6: Enter Submitter Details

Enter your **contact information** (as the submitter) and identify your **relationship to the party** identified in the application.

Submitter Details

Contact Phone Number * [?](#)

Phone Number Ext. (Optional)

Contact Email Address * [?](#)

Email

Submitter/Third Party Intermediary Relationship * [?](#)

Please specify

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 7: Enter Additional Staff in Additional Access

You can identify additional users to receive notifications about the application in the Additional Access section.

If there's a HARP account associated with the email address(es) you provide, the person will be able to sign in to their own account on qpp.cms.gov and access the application.

Additional Access

Additional Staff Access Email(s) ?

Hit enter/comma after each entry to add multiple

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 8: Select the Reason for MIPS Promoting Interoperability Hardship

Select the option that aligns with your reason for submitting an MIPS Promoting Interoperability Hardship exception application.

Promoting Interoperability Hardship Details

Reason for Promoting Interoperability Hardship * ?

Insufficient Internet Connectivity
In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to practicing in an area without sufficient internet access or facing insurmountable barriers to obtaining infrastructure (e.g. lack of broadband).

Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances
In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to facing Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances that prevented the clinician(s) from meeting the requirements of the promoting interoperability (PI) performance category.

Lack of Control over the Availability of CEHRT
In order to be approved for this hardship application, the eligible clinician (s) must attest to a lack of control over the availability of CEHRT in 1 or more practice locations where more than 50 percent of the patient encounters occurred.

EHR Decertification
In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to experiencing issues with the certification of the EHR product such as decertification.

Small Practice
In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to participating in a small practice.

WITHDRAW SUBMIT FOR REVIEW >

Note: You don't need to submit supporting documentation with your application. However, you should retain documentation of the circumstances supporting your application for your own records in the event that you are selected by CMS for data validation or an audit.

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 9: Complete Attestation and Provide Event Description

Before submitting your application, you must **complete the attestation** (differs for each reason option).

- [Insufficient Internet Connectivity](#)
- [Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances](#)
- [Lack of Control Over the Availability of CEHRT](#)
- [EHR Decertification](#)
- [Small Practice](#)

You also can provide an optional **brief description** on the hardship you experienced and how performance data is impacted.



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 9: Complete Attestation and Provide Event Description (continued)

Reason Option 1: Insufficient Internet Connectivity

Insufficient Internet Connectivity Details

In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to practicing in an area without sufficient internet access or facing insurmountable barriers to obtaining infrastructure (e.g. lack of broadband).

I attest that: *

On behalf of the clinician(s) listed in this application, I am requesting this hardship exception and attest that the clinician(s) was(were) located in an area without sufficient Internet access to comply with the promoting interoperability (PI) performance category objectives requiring internet connectivity, and faced insurmountable barriers to obtaining such internet connectivity.

Event Description (Optional) ?

Description of event that caused this hardship

6000 characters remaining



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 9: Complete Attestation and Provide Event Description (continued)

Reason Option 2: Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances

Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Details

In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to facing Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances as specified below that prevented the clinician(s) from meeting the requirements of the promoting interoperability (PI) performance category.

Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Event Type *

- Disaster
- Practice or Hospital Closure
- Severe Financial Distress (bankruptcy or debt restructuring)
- Vendor Issue

Event Date Range *

Start Date To End Date

Still persists

I attest that: *

On behalf of the clinician(s) listed in this application, I am requesting this hardship exception and attest that the clinician(s) faced extreme and uncontrollable circumstances in the form a natural disaster in which the EHR system was damaged or destroyed.

Event Description (Optional) ?

Enter a brief description of the event that caused this hardship

6000 characters remaining



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 9: Complete Attestation and Provide Event Description (continued)

Reason Option 3: Lack of Control Over the Availability of CEHRT

Lack of Control over the Availability of CEHRT

In order to be approved for this hardship application, the eligible clinician(s) must attest to a lack of control over the availability of CEHRT in 1 or more practice locations where more than 50 percent of the patient encounters occurred.

I attest that: *

On behalf of the clinician(s) listed in this application, I am requesting this hardship exception and attest that the clinician(s) lacked of control over the availability of CEHRT in 1 or more practice locations where more than 50 percent of the patient encounters occurred.

Event Description (Optional) ⓘ

Enter a brief description of the event that caused this hardship

6000 characters remaining



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 9: Complete Attestation and Provide Event Description (continued)

Reason Option 4: EHR Decertification

EHR Decertification

In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to experiencing issues with the certification of the EHR product such as decertification.

Event Start Date ?

ONC-ACB Certification ID ?

<https://chpl.healthit.gov/#/search>

I attest that: *

On behalf of the clinician(s) listed in this application, I am requesting this hardship exception and attest that the clinician(s) was(were) faced with EHR decertification issues.

Event Description (Optional) ?

6000 characters remaining



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 9: Complete Attestation and Provide Event Description (continued)

Reason Option 5: Small Practice

Small Practice

In order to be approved for this hardship exception, the clinician(s) must attest to participating in a small practice.

I attest that: *

On behalf of the clinician(s) listed in this application, I am requesting this hardship exception and attest that the clinician(s) was(were) participating in a small practice.

Event Description (Optional) ?

Enter a brief description of the event that caused this hardship

6000 characters remaining



MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

Step 10: Submit MIPS Promoting Interoperability Hardship Application

Once you are done with your application, click **Certify & Submit**.

Certify and Submit for Review

▼ Submission Summary
[EXPORT \(PDF\)](#)

General Notice

No Quality Payment Program Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception may be granted unless this application is completed. If the clinician or group associated with this application reports any data as an individual or a group to the Promoting Interoperability category this application will be dismissed. If this individual or group is a participant in a MIPS Alternative Payment Model (APM) they do not need to report data for the Promoting Interoperability performance category. However, the individual or group will receive the APM entity score for Promoting Interoperability as determined by the APM scoring standard if the performance category is not reweighted for the entire APM entity.

Disclosures

Submission of this Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception application is voluntary. Failure to provide necessary information to identify the clinician or group will result in processing delays or denial of the Quality Payment Program Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception application.

Notice

Any person who knowingly files a statement of claim containing any false, incomplete, or misleading information may be guilty of a criminal act punishable under Federal and state law and

By submitting this Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception Application, I am certifying that the details entered are correct to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I am submitting this request as

CLOSE
CERTIFY & SUBMIT >

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps

MIPS Promoting Interoperability Hardship Application Submission Confirmation

After you submit your MIPS Promoting Interoperability Hardship application, you will receive a message stating that your hardship application has been successfully submitted and is pending review.

You will also receive an email notification.



The PI Hardship application for **null**
NPI: 1234567890 / TIN: 999999999 has been submitted successfully and is pending approval.

[EXPORT APPLICATION \(PDF\)](#)

Please note:
We will evaluate this request and notify you after we have analyzed additional claims data and determined this NPI/TIN's eligibility for Performance Year 2020.

[DONE](#)



Help, Resources, Glossary, and Version History

Where Can You Go for Help?

Contact the Quality Payment Program at 1-866-288-8292, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) or by e-mail at: QPP@cms.hhs.gov.

- Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a TRS Communications Assistant.

Connect with your [local Technical Assistance organization](#). We provide no-cost technical assistance to small, underserved, and rural practices to help you successfully participate in the Quality Payment Program.

Visit the Quality Payment Program [website](#) for other [help and support](#) information, to learn more about [MIPS](#), and to check out the resources available in the [QPP Resource Library](#).

Additional Resources

The [QPP Resource Library](#) houses fact sheets, measure specifications, specialty guides, technical guides, user guides, helpful videos, and more. We will update this table as more resources become available.

- [2021 MIPS Promoting Interoperability Quick Start Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [2021 MIPS Promoting Interoperability User Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [2021 Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception Application Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Version History

If we need to update this document, changes will be identified here.

| Date | Description |
|------------|------------------|
| 05/19/2021 | Original Version |



Appendix

Appendix A. Automatic Reweighting in the MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category

| Reason for Reweighting (Individual Clinicians) | Action Needed by the Individual |
|---|--|
| <p>You have one of these Special Statuses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)-based; • Hospital-based; or • Non-patient facing | <p>None – You are automatically excepted from having to submit data for this performance category as an individual, though you may still choose to do so. You will be scored in this performance category if your practice is participating as a group or virtual group and does not qualify for reweighting.</p> |
| <p>You are one of these clinician types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician assistant • Nurse practitioner • Clinical nurse specialist • Certified registered nurse anesthetist • Physical therapist • Occupational therapist • Qualified speech-language pathologist • Qualified audiologist • Clinical psychologist • Registered dietitian or nutrition professional | <p>None – You are automatically excepted from having to submit data for this performance category as an individual, though you may still choose to do so. You will be scored in this performance category if your practice is participating as a group or virtual group and does not qualify for reweighting.</p> |
| Reason for Reweighting (Groups and Virtual Groups) | Action Needed by the Group or Virtual Group |
| <p>You have one of these Special Statuses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)-based. • Hospital-based: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group or virtual group must have more than 75% of clinicians designated as hospital-based. • Non-patient facing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group or virtual group must have more than 75% of clinicians designated as non-patient facing. | <p>You will be scored in this performance category if your practice is participating as a group or virtual group and does not qualify for reweighting.</p> |
| <p>All of the MIPS eligible clinicians in your group or virtual group qualify for reweighting as individuals (through any combination of special statuses, clinician type, and approved hardship exceptions).</p> | <p>You will be scored in this performance category if your practice is participating as a group or virtual group and does not qualify for reweighting.</p> |

Appendix B. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the 2021 Performance Year: Individual Clinicians, Groups and Virtual Groups

The table below illustrates the 2021 performance category weights and reweighting policies that CMS will apply to clinicians, groups, and virtual groups reporting via traditional MIPS.

Refer to [Appendix C](#) for reweighting policies that apply to APM Entities.

Important Reminders:

- Individual Clinicians, Groups, Virtual Groups: If fewer than 2 performance categories can be scored (meaning 1 performance category is weighted at 100%, or all performance categories are weighted at 0%), the clinician, group, or virtual group will receive a final score equal to the performance threshold and the MIPS eligible clinicians will receive a neutral payment adjustment in the 2023 payment year.

| MIPS Performance Category Reweighting Scenario | Quality Category Weight | Cost Category Weight | Improvement Activities Category Weight | Promoting Interoperability Category Weight |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| No Reweighting | | | | |
| Standard Weighting under traditional MIPS | 40% | 20% | 15% | 25% |
| Reweight 1 Performance Category | | | | |
| No Cost (Cost → Quality and Promoting Interoperability) | 55% | 0% | 15% | 30% |
| No Improvement Activities (Improvement Activities → Quality) | 55% | 20% | 0% | 25% |
| No Promoting Interoperability (Promoting Interoperability → Quality) | 65% | 20% | 15% | 0% |
| No Quality (Quality → Promoting Interoperability) | 0% | 20% | 15% | 65% |



Appendix B. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the 2021 Performance Year: Individual Clinicians, Groups and Virtual Groups (continued)

| MIPS Performance Category Reweighting Scenario | Quality Category Weight | Cost Category Weight | Improvement Activities Category Weight | Promoting Interoperability Category Weight |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Reweight 2 Performance Categories | | | | |
| No Cost + No Promoting Interoperability (Cost + Promoting Interoperability → Quality) | 85% | 0% | 15% | 0% |
| No Cost + No Quality (Cost + Quality → Promoting Interoperability) | 0% | 0% | 15% | 85% |
| No Cost + No Improvement Activities (Cost + Improvement Activities → Promoting Interoperability + Quality) | 70% | 0% | 0% | 30% |
| No Promoting Interoperability + No Quality (Promoting Interoperability + Quality → Cost + Improvement Activities) | 0% | 50% | 50% | 0% |
| No Promoting Interoperability + No Improvement Activities (Promoting Interoperability + Improvement Activities → Quality) | 80% | 20% | 0% | 0% |
| No Quality + No Improvement Activities (Quality + Improvement Activities → Promoting Interoperability) | 0% | 20% | 0% | 80% |



Appendix B. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the 2021 Performance Year: Individual Clinicians, Groups and Virtual Groups (continued)

| MIPS Performance Category Reweighting Scenario | Quality Category Weight | Cost Category Weight | Improvement Activities Category Weight | Promoting Interoperability Category Weight |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Reweight 3 Performance Categories | | | | |
| If you have multiple performance categories reweighted to 0% so that a single performance category is weighted at 100% of your final score, you will receive a score equal to the performance threshold regardless of any data submitted or not and receive a neutral payment adjustment. | | | | |
| Reweight 4 Performance Categories | | | | |
| If all performance categories are reweighted to 0%, you will receive a score equal to the performance threshold regardless of any data submitted or not and receive a neutral payment adjustment. | | | | |

Appendix C. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies for APM Entities and the APP Finalized for the 2021 Performance Year

The table below illustrates the 2021 performance category weights and reweighting policies that CMS will apply to APM Entities reporting traditional MIPS, and to individual clinicians, groups and APM Entities reporting the APP.

Reminders:

- Cost is not scored under the APP.
- There are no reporting requirements for the improvement activities performance category under the APP for PY 2021. Participants reporting via the APP will automatically receive full credit for the improvement activities performance category.
- Participants reporting via the APP will follow the same reporting requirements as traditional MIPS for the Promoting Interoperability performance category.

| MIPS Performance Category Reweighting Scenario under the APP | Quality Category Weight | Cost Category Weight | Improvement Activities Category Weight | Promoting Interoperability Category Weight |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| No Reweighting | | | | |
| Standard Weighting under the APP | 50% | 0% | 20% | 30% |
| Reweight 1 Performance Category | | | | |
| No Promoting Interoperability (Promoting Interoperability → Quality) | 75% | 0% | 25% | 0% |
| No Quality (Quality → Promoting Interoperability) | 0% | 0% | 25% | 75% |
| Reweight 2 + Performance Categories | | | | |
| If you have multiple performance categories reweighted to 0% so that a single performance category is weighted at 100% of your final score, you will receive a score equal to the performance threshold regardless of any data submitted or not and receive a neutral payment adjustment. | | | | |