

Pick your pace in the QPP

Physicians can decide how they'll participate in the 2017 Quality Payment Program race. Which is the right pace for you?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services says just more than half of U.S. physicians will be part of the Quality Payment Program (QPP). While physicians who meet the QPP thresholds aren't required to participate, they'll be penalized if they don't.

Here's a look at the choices they have, and their consequences.



WITHDRAW FROM THE RACE

Physicians who qualify for QPP participation but do not report can still treat Medicare patients and be paid under Part B. However, they will receive a negative payment adjustment of **4 percent** in 2019.



START



WALK THE TRACK

In 2017, Medicare allows physicians to submit one quality measure or one improvement activity as the minimum amount of data to **avoid a negative payment adjustment**. But they can't qualify for exceptional-performer bonuses.



RUN A 10K, NOT A MARATHON

Physicians and groups who aren't ready to report for the entire year can submit QPP information for **90 days**. Participants may earn small positive adjustments in Part B payments in 2019. They may even qualify for exceptional-performer bonuses. But it's also likely their payment will remain neutral.



GO THE DISTANCE

Participating in Merit-based Incentive Payment Systems (MIPS) for all of 2017 will earn physicians a **larger percentage bonus** — likely about 1 percent in 2019. Some physicians will receive exceptional-performer bonuses, but they will represent a small percentage of MIPS participants.



FINISH



GO THE EXTRA MILE

Physicians who participate in an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) in 2017 will receive a **5 percent incentive payment** in 2019. That's on top of the shared savings revenue they may receive unrelated to the bonus. And while there is also the possibility of shared losses, physicians may see the incentive payment as offsetting that possible loss.



To choose the perfect approach, you need to understand the financial and clinical impacts of these new programs on your practice. Count on Optum® experts to not only help you choose the best QPP pace but also help you implement for success.

Learn more at www.optum.com/macra or call us at 1-800-765-6705.