

# The Hawthorn

# CONNECTION

## NEWS FLASH

EST. 1978

October 2016

10820 Sunset office Dr., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, St. Louis MO 63127

800-899-5757

### MACRA - Final Rule

On April 27, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a highly anticipated proposed rule outlining physician payment reforms as required by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The proposed rule introduced the Quality Payment Program, a two-track quality program that includes key guidelines for the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMs) that will take effect as early as January 1, 2017.

MIPS is a new program that combines parts of PQRS, VM, and the EHR incentive program into one single program in which Eligible Clinicians (ECs) will be measured on **four specific performance categories**:

- **Quality:** Formerly PQRS. Incentivized clinicians engage in improvement measures and activities that have a proven impact on patient health and safety.
- **Resource Utilization:** Formerly the cost component of the Value Modifier (VM). Goal is to lower costs while significantly improving outcomes for high priority cases and chronic conditions.
- **Clinical Practice Improvement:** New program. Activities where the goal is to lower costs while significantly improving outcomes for high priority cases and chronic conditions.
- **Advancing Care Information:** Formerly Meaningful Use of Certified EHR technologies. Use of Certified EHR Technology with a shift to patient engagement, information exchange and care coordination to promote better outcomes.

On Friday, 10/14/2016 The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released the MACRA MIPS/APM final rule. As you can imagine, this is a rather lengthy document and it will take a little time to fully digest and understand the ramifications of the final rule. We are reviewing the final rule and working with your specialty organizations to analyze the final rule and give you a summary as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, we wanted to give you a few links to additional resources from CMS if you would like to review them.

[https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/Quality\\_Payment\\_Program\\_Overview\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/Quality_Payment_Program_Overview_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

[https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_of\\_Final\\_Rule.pdf](https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP_Executive_Summary_of_Final_Rule.pdf)

<https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/CMS-5517-FC.pdf>

***Please call us directly if you need assistance or have any questions.***

