

# Quality Payment PROGRAM

## Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)

**2022 MIPS Policies for Small Practices  
(15 or fewer clinicians)**



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**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.

**Purpose:** This resource provides a high-level overview of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) requirements for small practices (15 or fewer clinicians) to get you started with participating in the 2022 performance year.



## **What's New for Small Practices in Performance Year 2022?**

## Eligibility & Performance Category Requirements

### New MIPS Eligible Clinician Types:



Clinical Social  
Workers **(NEW)**



Certified Nurse  
Midwives **(NEW)**

**No other changes to eligibility criteria**

### Cost Performance Category:

- There are **5 new episode-based measures** for 2022:
  - 2 procedural measures (Melanoma Resection, Colon and Rectal Resection)
  - 1 acute inpatient measure (Sepsis)
  - 2 chronic condition measures (Diabetes, Asthma/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease [COPD])



### Quality Measure Performance Category:

- **Medicare Part B claims measures:** We'll only calculate a group-level quality performance category score from claims measures if your practice also submits data for another performance category as a group (signaling your intent to participate as a group.)
- **Removal of bonus points for:**
  - Reporting additional Outcome, Patient Experience, and High Priority Measures beyond the 1 required
  - Measures that meet end-to-end electronic reporting criteria

**NO CHANGE** to the small practice bonus. If you submit at least 1 quality measure, you will continue to earn 6 bonus points in this category.

## Eligibility & Performance Category Requirements (Continued)



### Promoting Interoperability Performance Category:

- We'll **automatically reweight this performance category to 0% for small practices** beginning with performance year:
  - You're not required to report Promoting Interoperability data.
  - You no longer need to submit a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception Application for this category to be reweighted.

If you choose to report data for this performance category:

- There is a new [SAFER Guides attestation measure](#) and changes to the [information blocking attestation](#).
- Requirements for the Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange Registry objective were updated to require reporting on these measures:
  - Immunization Registry Reporting and Electronic Case Reporting measures.
  - You will earn 5 bonus points for reporting any of the other 3, now optional, measures in this objective.

## Final Score: Performance Thresholds and Payment Adjustments

### Performance Thresholds for 2022\*

- The performance threshold is set at **75 points**
  - This is the minimum final score needed to avoid a negative payment adjustment in 2024.
- The additional performance threshold for exceptional performance is set at **89 points**
- We'll compare your final score to the performance threshold (and exceptional performance threshold) to determine your payment adjustment

\*As required by statute, beginning with performance year 2022, the performance threshold must be either the mean or median of the final scores for all MIPS eligible clinicians for a prior period.



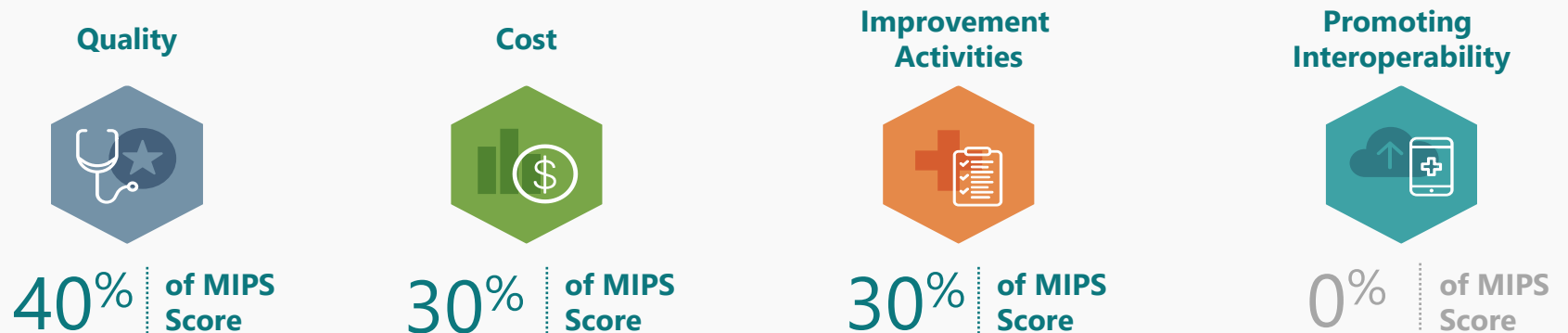
**The 2022 performance year/2024 payment year is the FINAL YEAR for the additional adjustment for exceptional performance.**

Final Score 2022	Payment Adjustments 2024
<b>&gt; = 89 points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive adjustment greater than 0%</li><li>• Eligible for additional payment for exceptional performance</li></ul>
<b>75.01-88.99 points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive adjustment greater than 0%</li><li>• Not eligible for additional payment for exceptional performance</li></ul>
<b>75 points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neutral payment adjustment (0%)</li></ul>
<b>18.76 – 74.99 points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Negative payment adjustment between -9% and 0%</li></ul>
<b>0 – 18.75 points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Negative payment adjustment of -9%</li></ul>

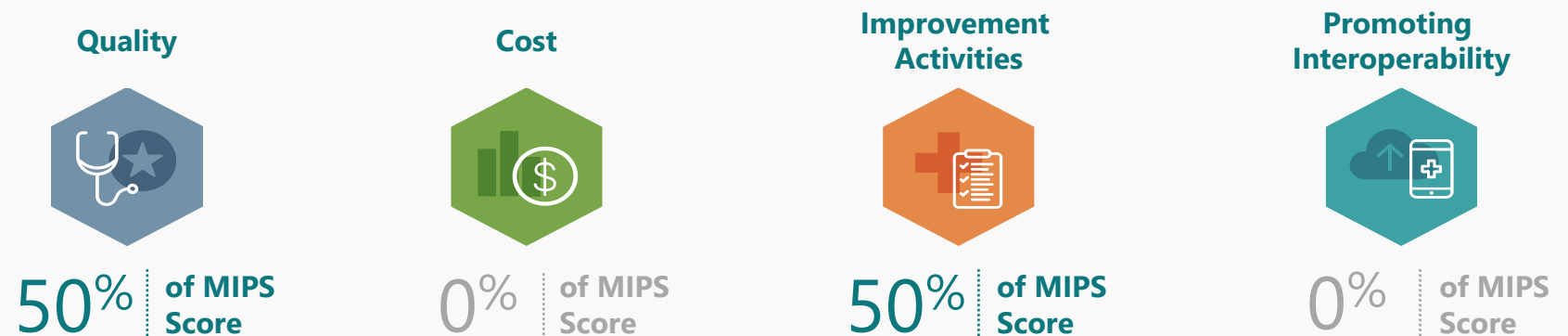
## Final Score Calculation – Redistribution Policies for Small Practices

For performance year 2022, we're updating the performance category redistribution policies for small practices only **to more heavily weight the improvement activities performance category** when other performance categories are reweighted.

### Standard weighting for small practices (Promoting Interoperability automatically reweighted)



### When both the **cost** and the **Promoting Interoperability** performance categories are reweighted:




## Final Score Calculation – Redistribution Policies for Small Practices (Continued)

NOTE: This redistribution scenario applies to everyone, not just small practices.


**When both the quality and the Promoting Interoperability performance categories are reweighted:**

**Quality**




0% of MIPS Score

**Cost**




50% of MIPS Score

**Improvement Activities**



50% of MIPS Score

**Promoting Interoperability**



0% of MIPS Score

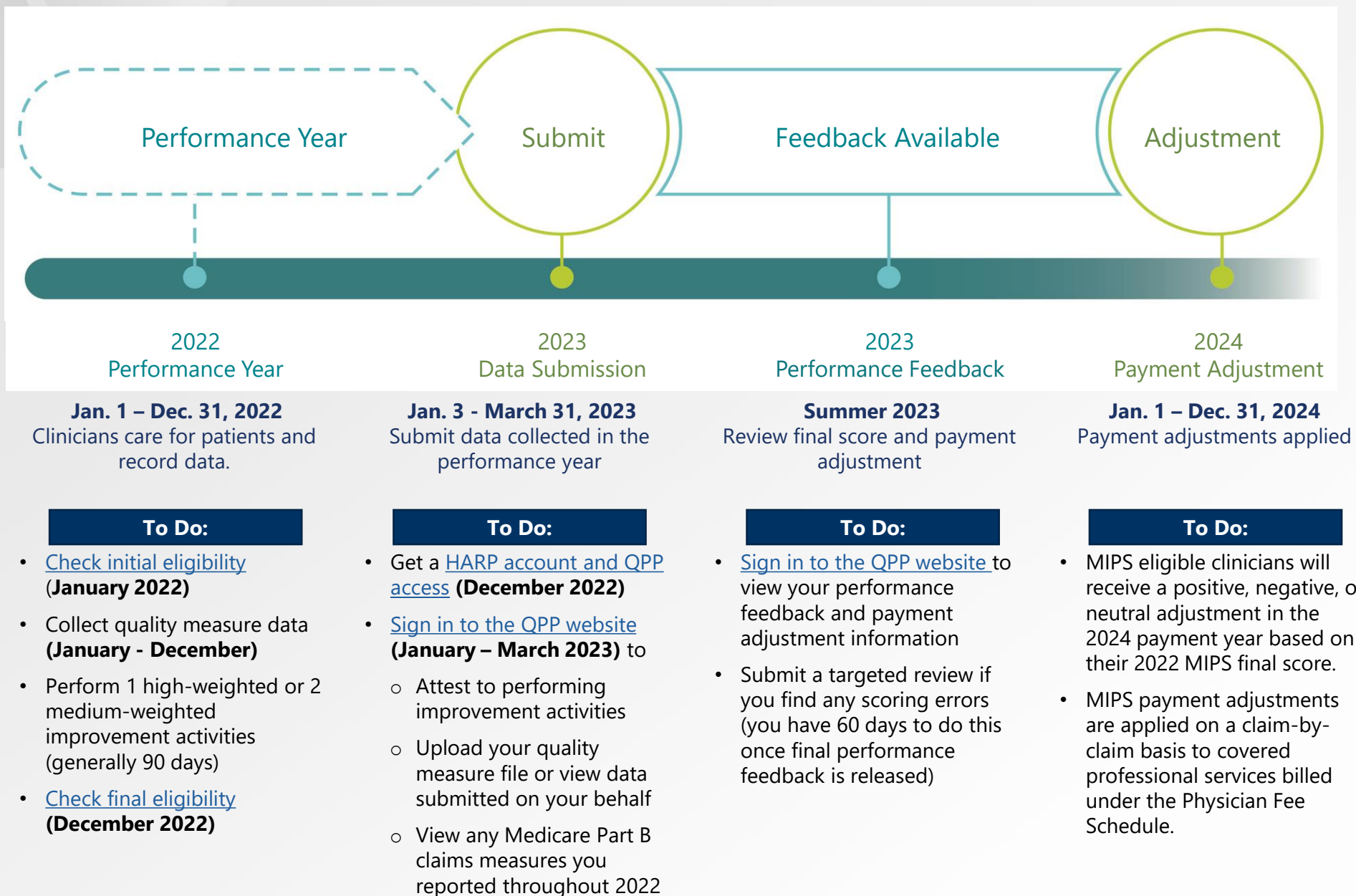




# **Performance Year 2022 Timeline**



# Performance Year 2022 Timeline





## **Help, Resources, and Version History**

## Where Can I Get Help?

### Contact the Quality Payment Program Service Center

at 1-866-288-8292 or by e-mail at: [QPP@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:QPP@cms.hhs.gov) (Monday-Friday 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. ET). To receive assistance more quickly, please consider calling during non-peak hours—before 10 a.m. and after 2 p.m. ET.

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

Visit the [Small, Underserved and Rural Practices page of the Quality Payment Program website](#) where you can **sign up for the monthly Small Practice Newsletter** and find resources and information relevant for small practices.

## Additional Resources

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

Resource	Description
<a href="#">2022 MIPS Eligibility and Participation Quick Start Guide</a>	A high-level overview and actionable steps to understand your 2022 MIPS eligibility and participation requirements.
<a href="#">2022 Medicare Part B Claims Reporting Quick Start Guide</a>	A high-level overview and practical information about reporting quality measures through Medicare Part B claims.
<a href="#">2022 Quality Quick Start Guide</a>	A high-level overview and practical information about quality measure selection, data collection, and submission for the 2022 MIPS quality performance category.
<a href="#">2022 Improvement Activities Quick Start Guide</a>	A high-level overview and practical information about data collection and submission for the 2022 MIPS improvement activities performance category.
<a href="#">2022 Promoting Interoperability Quick Start Guide</a>	A high-level overview and practical information about data collection and submission for the 2022 MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category.
<a href="#">2022 Cost Quick Start Guide</a>	A high-level overview of cost measures, including calculation and attribution, for the 2022 MIPS cost performance category.
<a href="#">2022 Quality Payment Program Final Rule Resources</a>	A zip file containing 2022 QPP final rule resources, including a fact sheet, FAQs, and a table comparing finalized policies to previous policies.

## Version History

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

Date	Description
2/15/2022	Original Posting.