

2025 MVP Maintenance Feedback Webinar

February 7, 2025

>> **Michelle Peterman, CMS:** Welcome to the MIPS Value Pathway, or MVP, Maintenance Feedback Webinar. Thank you for joining us. My name is Michelle Peterman, and I am the MVP lead here on behalf of CMS, or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, specifically for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System Program or MIPS. Today, we are going to talk about the MVP maintenance process. We have through this process solicited and received feedback. We would like to spend some time walking you through that feedback.

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Regarding the purpose and scope of this webinar, this webinar focuses on reviewing a summary of feasible maintenance recommendations that we've received from external stakeholders to our existing and established MVPs for the 2026 rulemaking cycle. We do welcome questions on the feedback and are happy to hear any additional feedback you may have. We will get to how you can submit that feedback in our Help and Support section at the end of this presentation. Just as a reminder, this maintenance process for finalized MVPs is separate from the maintenance MVP candidate solicitation process that was described in the Physician Fee Schedule calendar year 2021 Final Rule. This process is for established MVPs, while the MVP candidate solicitation process is an opportunity to provide potential MVP candidates that are brand-new to the program for us to consider and potentially include through notice and comment rulemaking. Additional detailed resources about MVPs beyond the scope of this session are also provided at the end of this presentation. We highly recommend you visit our Quality Payment Program website for more resources related to MVPs.

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For today's presentation, we will be going over the maintenance overview and feedback process, walk you through our finalized MVP inventory, and then we'll spend a little time going through the feedback we have received through the feedback solicitation process. And then we

will direct you to our Help and Resources page, which you can leverage to learn more about MVPs or provide additional feedback through our potential methods. As noted on the slide, if you would like to skip ahead, you may click on the links on the Table of Contents to do so.

Next slide. I will now pass the presentation over to my colleague Deb to walk us through the slides.

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>> **Deb Kaldenberg, PIMMS:** Good afternoon. My name is Deb. So, for this slide, we just want to say that, as noted for calendar year 2023 under the "MVP Maintenance Process," feedback regarding proposed revisions to finalized MVPs during its annual MVP maintenance process will be reviewed at this time.

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So the next several slides will be going over the MVP maintenance overview and feedback, the process itself.

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This webinar covers proposed MVP maintenance received from the general public, which is the last step in the MVP development process. This step is solely for MVPs that CMS has previously finalized through rulemaking. The general public can provide feedback on these MVPs for CMS consideration. For more information on the entire MVP development process, please refer to the MVP Resources link at the end of this presentation.

As a quick overview, the MVP development process starts with the development of MVP candidates. MVP candidates are either developed internally by CMS or submitted by interested parties on a rolling basis. Depending on when an MVP candidate is submitted will determine whether it could potentially be proposed in the upcoming rulemaking cycle or future

rulemaking cycles. We recommend interested parties submit MVP candidates earlier in the year to provide CMS sufficient time to review the MVP candidate prior to the upcoming rulemaking cycle. If needed, CMS may follow up and discuss an MVP candidate with the interested party or parties that submitted the candidate. Any MVP candidate CMS deems feasible for rulemaking is posted to the QPP website for at least a 30-day period. This is an opportunity for the general public to provide feedback on potential MVP candidates prior to future notice and comment rulemaking. Once the feedback period closes, if CMS decides to incorporate an MVP into the program, CMS will propose the MVP through rulemaking. The general public is encouraged to provide feedback through the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking comment period. MVPs that are finalized undergo review and maintenance as needed.

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The Explore MVP webpage on the QPP website shows all MVPs available for reporting in 2025. On this page, you'll find a description and details for each MVP and a list of the most applicable specialties for reporting the MVP. The general public can submit recommendations for modifications to a previously finalized MVP on a rolling basis by sending an email to the PIMMSMVPSupport mailbox. More information on this process can be found on the QPP website.

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CMS reviewed all recommendations submitted to the PIMMSMVPSupport mailbox prior to this webinar. Later in this presentation, we will go over recommendations that were deemed feasible by CMS.

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Please note this MVP maintenance solicitation process doesn't extend to requests for changes to existing individual MIPS measures and improvement activities. Changes to individual MIPS measures and improvement activities are made through separate established processes under the

traditional MIPS performance category policies and criteria for measures and activities. Those changes would be reflected within established MVPs. Changes to MIPS quality measures may be submitted for consideration during the proposed rulemaking comment cycle, or by contacting the measure steward directly. Changes to existing improvement activities and cost measures may be submitted for consideration through the annual Call for Measures and Activities. Any changes to existing MIPS measures and improvement activities will be proposed through future notice and comment rulemaking.

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Next, we will be going over the previously finalized MVPs.

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In the 2025 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, we finalized an additional six MVPs, bringing the total number of MVPs available for reporting in 2025 to 21 MVPs. The new finalized MVPs are the Comprehensive Ocular Care, the Dermatological Care, Gastroenterology Care, Pulmonology Care, Surgical Care, and Optimal Care for Patients with Urologic Conditions.

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The previously finalized MVPs cover topics that include Infectious Disease, Mental and Behavioral Health, Musculoskeletal, Otolaryngology, Women's Health.

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Anesthesia, Cancer Care, Emergency Medicine, Neurological, and Heart Disease. One notable change is we consolidated the two previously finalized primary care MVPs -- Optimal Care for Patients with Episodic Neurological Conditions in 2023 and Supportive Care for Neurodegenerative Conditions in 2023 -- into one neurological MVP, which is now titled Quality Care for Patients with Neurological Conditions. If you want to review previous

maintenance changes and rationales, you can find links to our previous final rules on the last slide of this presentation, or visit the QPP website.

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Additional previously finalized MVPs include the Kidney Health, Lower Extremity, Primary Care, Rheumatology, and Stroke topics.

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And next, we are going to go over the maintenance requests received. Only the quality and improvement activity performance categories received feasible maintenance requests through this last year.

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The following maintenance recommendations were suggested for consideration to the Advancing Cancer Care MVP. The two recommendations include the addition of a couple of QCDR measures, including the PIMSH15 and the PIMSH16 measures. CMS has determined the recommendation to add these measures is feasible, as the measure concepts address appropriate cancer care treatment.

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The following maintenance recommendations were suggested for consideration to the Dermatology Care MVP. One recommendation was to add Quality Measure 047, the Advance Care Plan measure. CMS has determined the recommendation to add Quality Measure 047 is feasible, as this measure supports patient's wishes regarding medical treatment. We also received a recommendation to swap Quality Measure 130 -- Documentation of Current Medications in the Medical Record -- for Quality Measure 238 -- Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults. CMS has determined the recommendation to swap Quality

Measure 130 for Quality Measure 238 is feasible, since Quality Measure 238 focuses on older adults prescribed high-risk medications rather than documentation of medications. Some medications are considered high risk due to increased risk of harm from drug side-effects and drug toxicity causing concern for patient safety.

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The following recommendations were suggested for consideration to the Rehabilitative Support for Musculoskeletal Care. The first recommendation was to add Quality Measure 134, Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan. And the second recommendation was to add Quality Measure 182, Functional Outcome Assessment. CMS has determined the recommendation to add Quality Measure 134 and Quality Measure 182 is feasible, as the measures could encourage broader participation in reporting the Rehabilitative Support for Musculoskeletal Care MVP among physical therapists.

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The following maintenance recommendations were suggested for consideration to the Rehabilitative Support for Musculoskeletal Care. These recommendations include the addition of four improvement activities, including IA_BE_15: Engagement of Patients, Family and Caregivers in Developing a Plan of Care, IA_BE_16: Promote Self-Management into Usual Care, IA_CC_9: Implementation of Practices and Processes for Developing Regular Individual Care Plans, and IA_PM_13: Chronic Care and Preventive Care Management for Empaneled Patients. CMS has determined the recommendation to add IA_BE_15, IA_BE_16, IA_CC_9, and IA_PM_13 is feasible, as these activities could provide additional improvement activity options for physical therapists. Please refer to the Explore Measures and Activities for the full description and list of actions to implement these improvement activities.

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And now I will hand it back off to my colleague, Michelle Peterman. Thank you.

>> **Michelle Peterman, CMS:** Thanks so much, Deb. Next slide, please.

As we mentioned earlier in the presentation, you still have an opportunity to provide feedback, based off the information we've gone over today. In the event you would like to do so, please submit a ticket to the QPP Service Center. You can also do so via the email listed there at QPP@cms.hhs.gov, or by phone. Please be mindful that it would be beneficial for you to call during the non-peak hours, which are before 10 AM and after 2 PM. There is an option for those who are hearing impaired by dialing 711 to be connected to a TRS Communications Assistant.

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As mentioned earlier, this slide provides a list of resources that could be helpful. We highly recommend you go through and review some of these items, especially if you're interested in providing input in the future for the MVP maintenance or potentially future MVP development through the candidate process.

That concludes our webinar for today. We appreciate the time that you've taken to listen to the webinar and hope you have a great day.