

May 18, 2017

CMS Releases Lookup Tool to Help Clinicians Determine their MIPS Participation Status

Physicians can now use an interactive tool on the CMS Quality Payment Program website to determine if they should participate in the MIPS track of the [Quality Payment Program](#) in 2017.



For physicians to determine their status, visit the Quality Payment Program website at <https://qpp.cms.gov/> and enter national provider identifier (NPI) into the entry field on the tool at the top of the page. Information will then be provided on whether or not they should participate in MIPS this year and where to find resources.

Participation Criteria

Providers will participate in MIPS in 2017 if they: Providers must also be a:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bill Medicare Part B more than \$30,000 a year AND• See more than 100 Medicare patients a year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physician• Physician assistant• Nurse practitioner• Clinical nurse specialist• Certified nurse practitioner |
|--|---|

Physicians who are new to Medicare in 2017 do not participate in MIPS. They may also be exempt if they qualify for one of the special rules for certain types of clinicians, or are participating in an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM). To learn more, review the [MIPS Participation Fact Sheet](#).

If you are not in the program in 2017, you can participate voluntarily and you will not be subject to negative payment adjustments.

Participation Notification Letters – CMS recently sent letters in the mail notifying clinicians of their MIPS participation status. See a [sample of the letter](#) on the [Education page](#) of <https://qpp.cms.gov/>. This tool is another resource for clinicians to use to determine their status.

**LAST CHANCE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF ADVANCE REGISTRATION DISCOUNT:
2017 NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting**
*Earn up to 8.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM
and 30 ABIM MOC Points!*



Saturday, June 3, 2017
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rochester NY
[Register Here](#) • [Meeting Brochure](#)

Topics Include

- Role of the Internist in Climate Change
- Medication Management of Diabetes: Case Base Approach-Incorporating the Old and the New
- Pain Control: Common Scenarios and Therapeutic Approaches
- A Review of Common Orthopedic Maneuvers for Diagnosing Joint Pain
- Physician Wellness
- And much more!

ABIM MOC Courses

- 2016 Update in Internal Medicine
- 2016 Update in Pulmonary Disease
- 2016 Update in Cardiovascular Disease
- 2016 Update in Endocrinology

Don't miss out on dynamic plenary topics and the resident & medical student poster competitions in the morning!

[Read more about the 2017 NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting here!](#) • [Register Today!](#)

Advocacy

NYACP Advocacy Update

As the New York State legislature enters its final four weeks of session, there are many legislative issues that impact your patients and your practice. These are the issues that NYACP will be watching closely:

- **Medical Liability Changes** - to the statute of limitations and wrongful death determinations will increase your premiums (watch for legislative action alerts from the Chapter if these proposals move and be prepared to act using [NYACP's Legislative Action Center](#))
 - **E-Cigarettes Added to Clean Indoor Air Act** - Has passed Assembly and is now in Senate
 - **Additional changes to ease the burden of prior authorization rules** are active and a new comprehensive plan supported by the Chapter, MSSNY, and NYSAFP is to be introduced shortly
 - **Changes to Scope of Practice** in many allied health professions are actively being considered
 - **Medical marijuana expansion, end-of-life care and decision making, and a single payer proposal for the state** are all moving through the legislative process
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Practice Management

May is Arthritis Awareness Month AND Hepatitis Awareness Month: ACP Has Resources On Both!

May is both Arthritis Awareness Month and Hepatitis Awareness Month. Help support your patients in managing their own care with ACP's arthritis and hepatitis patient education resources. Arthritis resources include our "Live Better with Rheumatoid Arthritis" guidebook and our two-page Patient FACTS sheets for rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. We also offer Patient FACTS sheets for hepatitis B and C. These patient-tested resources not only share valuable information about the conditions, but also promote action strategies and self-management.

Use the links below to access these high-quality tools for patient engagement:

- [Rheumatoid arthritis](#)
- [Osteoarthritis](#)
- [Hepatitis B](#)
- [Hepatitis C](#)
- [ACP's full library of patient education resources](#)

New York Weekly Influenza Report from the NYS Department of Health

During the week ending May 6, 2017:

- Influenza activity level was categorized as geographically widespread. This is the 20th consecutive week that widespread activity has been reported.
- There were 450 laboratory-confirmed influenza reports, an 45% decrease over last week.
- Of the 1,030 specimens submitted to NYS WHO/NREVSS laboratories, 95 (9.22%) were positive for influenza.
- Of the 20 specimens tested at Wadsworth Center, 11 were positive for influenza. 3 were positive for influenza A (H3), and 8 were influenza B (Yamagata)
- Reports of percent of patient visits or influenza-like illness (ILI3) from ILINet providers was 2.34%, which is below the regional baseline of 3.00%.
- The number of patients hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed influenza was 86, an 43% decrease over last week.
- There were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported this week. There have been eight influenza-associated deaths this season.

[Read the entire report here.](#)

Health Commerce System to No Longer Support Windows XP Operating System

The Health Commerce System (HCS) will be discontinuing access for all computers running Windows XP and Microsoft Internet Explorer version 9 (IE9) and older web browsers as they pose a security risk to the HCS system.

Windows XP users must upgrade their operating system and IE9 users must upgrade their browser by June 1, 2017 to continue using the HCS, as the HCS will block connections from computers running Windows XP and IE9 browser and older. User of MacOS, OSX, Windows 7, Windows 8,



or Windows 10 and users of Google Chrome, Microsoft Internet Explorer 10 or newer, or Safari on the Mac platform, are not affected by this change.

As of June 1, 2017, you will not be allowed access to the following applications on Windows XP or IE9:

- Patient narcotic histories (i-STOP/PMP);
- E-Prescribing waivers;
- Your Physician Profile;
- The New York State Immunization Information System;
- Environmental Health EHCitrix Platform;
- Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (eFINDS);
- The Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS); and
- Other mission-critical applications.

Note: This is important because licensed physicians **MUST** access some of the areas listed above as mandated by NYS law.

Please contact hcsxpeol@health.ny.gov for questions or assistance, and visit the New York State Department of Health page at: <http://health.ny.gov>.

Education

Rochester District Hosts More Than 50 Prescribers for First Live Pain Management Course

On May 11, NYACP held its first of four planned live events that fulfill the New York State mandate of pain management and opioid prescription education. This event was held in the Rochester District, at the Pomodoro Grill. Pat Bomba, MD, MACP, was the faculty for the 3-hour live event. Participants were able to satisfy the pain management education mandate through this event, as well as earn CME and MOC credits.



If you were unable to attend, NYACP will be holding 3 more live events throughout New York before the July 1 deadline in the following areas:

Hudson Valley Capital District: June 9, 2017. Morning Pain Management Course (Also offers optional Buprenorphine Waiver Training in afternoon)
Radison Hotel, Albany NY. [Flyer](#) • [Register Here](#)

Southern Tier District: June 22, 2017.
5:30PM -9:00PM. Traditions at the Glen, Johnson City, NY. [Flyer](#) • [Register Here](#)

Brooklyn District: June 22, 2017.
5:30PM -9:00PM. SUNY Downstate, Alumni Auditorium. Brooklyn, NY. [Flyer](#) • [Register Here](#)

[If you can not make it to these live events, the online course can be taken here.](#)

National Government Services Hosts Listening Tours in New York State

National Government Services (NGS), the local coordinator of Medicare Provider Services for CMS, is planning to hold listening events at locations in New York in an effort to "find new ways to improve upon customer service." This is intended for physicians, practice managers and administrators to give feedback to NGS about how to increase the effectiveness of their service to physician practices. The first event was in the Albany area on May 16th. The second session will be:

- Long Island Region
June 20, 2017 • 10:00 – 12:00
Northwell Hospital Long Island
1979 Marcus Avenue • New Hyde Park, NY 11042

During this event, NGS will be sitting down and listening to physician and practice managers' ideas about how they can improve service in areas such as customer service from the call center, training offered through NGS webinars, use of the website, provider enrollment procedures and general professional service feedback.

Please RSVP with your attendance to Lori Langevin at lori.langevin@anthem.com no later than two weeks prior to the meeting date to let NGS know you can attend. If you have suggestions, but are unable to attend in person, please send your suggestions to lori.langevin@anthem.com.
