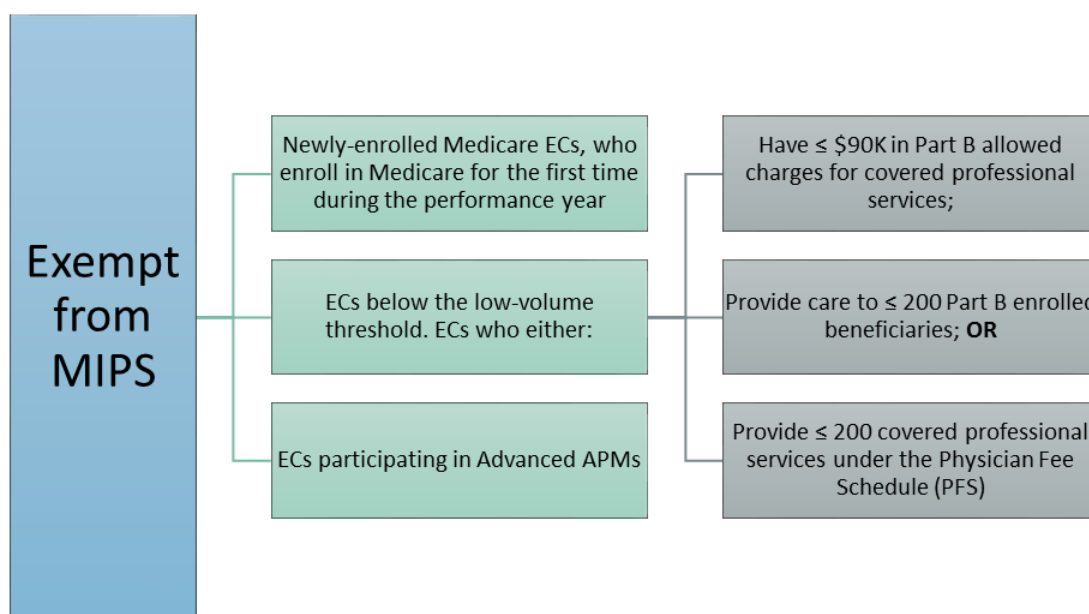


## Key Changes to the CY 2019 Quality Payment Program (QPP) Participation

On November 2, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a final rule with updates to the Quality Payment Program (QPP) for CY 2019 and beyond. Below we highlight and focus on the top 5 key changes for 2019 MIPS participation to help you and your practice prepare for the upcoming year.

### 1. Third Criterion Finalized for the Low-Volume Threshold

CMS finalized a third criterion for the low-volume threshold so that physicians and groups will be excluded from MIPS participation. Additionally, CMS also finalized an opt-in policy permitting physicians and groups to participate in MIPS if they meet or exceed at least one of the low-volume threshold criteria.



### 2. Claims Measures can only be Reported by Solo Practitioners or Small Practices

Beginning with the 2019 MIPS performance year, only physicians and groups designated as small practices (i.e., 15 or fewer eligible clinicians) can report measures using the Medicare Part B claims submission option.

### 3. 8 New Episode-Based Measures Finalized for Cost Category

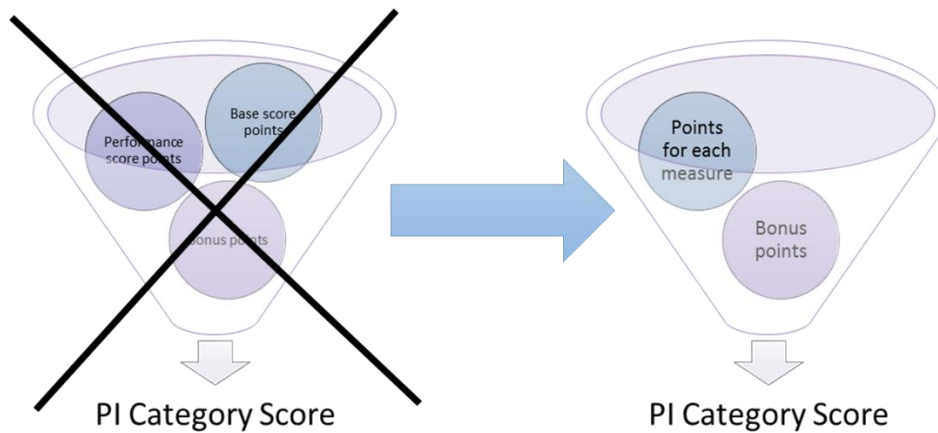
CMS finalized 8 new episode-based measures for the Cost category:

- Elective Outpatient Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
- Knee Arthroplasty
- Revascularization for Lower Extremity Chronic Critical Limb Ischemia
- Routine Cataract Removal with Intraocular Lens Implantation
- Screening/Surveillance Colonoscopy
- Intracranial Hemorrhage of Cerebral Infarction
- Simple Pneumonia with Hospitalization
- ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction with Percutaneous Coronary Intervention.

Additionally, the Cost category will count towards 15% of the 2019 MIPS final score. The final weights for all MIPS categories for 2019 performance year will be as follow. Quality 45%; Promoting Interoperability 25%; Improvement Activities 15%; and Cost 15%.

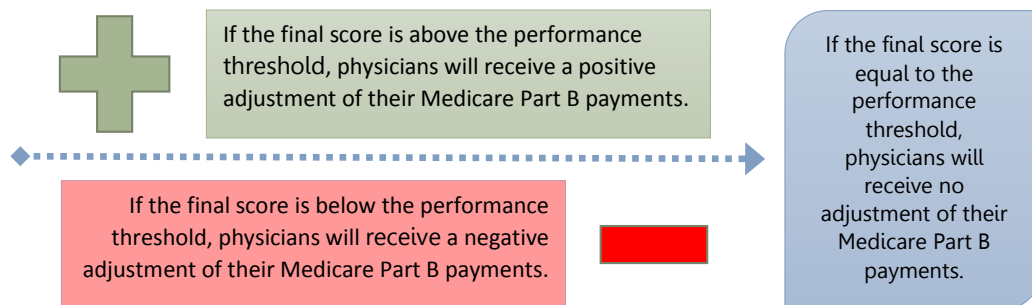
**4. Promoting Interoperability Category Scoring Methodology Changed**

CMS has eliminated the three-part scoring methodology that was used for the Promoting Interoperability category for the 2017 and 2018 MIPS performance years. For 2019 and 2020, the Promoting Interoperability score will be calculated similarly to the Quality category score and will be based on cumulative performance across six required measures and any applicable bonus scores.



**5. Performance Threshold Increased to 30 Points**

The MIPS final score and related payment adjustment is based on their final performance score in all four MIPS categories compared to the MIPS performance threshold for the performance year. This threshold has been increased to 30 points for the 2019 performance year.



If you would like additional details about the MIPS program and other changes made to the program for the 2019 performance year please visit [PAI's QPP Resource Center](#) and see [CMS's QPP Year 3 Fact Sheet](#). Please note that these resources were developed for the 2018 performance year, so they may not translate completely over for the 2019 performance year; however, updated materials will be made available in early 2019.