

Shanen Wright:

Good morning, and welcome to the May 2020 edition of QPPLive!, a production of Quality Insights Quality Payment Program Support Center. For those of you returning to QPPLive!, welcome back, you know the procedure. You can start submitting your questions for our panel of experts at any time, using the Q&A function in your WebEx player.

Shanen Wright:

If this is your first time joining us, don't worry, we'll give you complete instructions on how you can interact with us, here on QPPLive! We've got great information coming up today, including some interactive polling questions. We want to hear from you as much as you want to hear from us. So stay tuned for all of that and much, much more.

Shanen Wright:

To kick things off today, it is my great pleasure to turn things over to Rox Fletcher for today's breaking news and announcements and a few polling questions as well. Rox?

Roxanne Fletcher:

Thanks, Shanen. And this is Roxanne live from Delaware. I just wanted to go over some breaking news and announcements with you.

Roxanne Fletcher:

A lot of questions that I've been getting from practices are about wanting to know when they're going to get their final MIPS information back. So if you did submit to the Quality Payment Program, final scores will not be available until July. There are some things that you need to be aware of, that scores may change if any of the following are applicable.

Roxanne Fletcher:

If you submitted quality measures via claims in November and December, there's a 60-day run-out period; if you administered the CAHPS for the MIPS survey; if you submitted a COVID-19 extreme and uncontrollable circumstances application in April; if you are a facility-based clinician and the Quality and Cost category scores will be based on facility-based measurement; if you participated in the improvement study; if you reported a quality measure without a historical benchmark, but CMS was able to create a benchmark, based on 2019 data or if you are in a practice with at least 16 clinicians and your group had at least 200 readmissions, so you'll be scored on the all-cause readmission measure.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Now, I want to take a break right now, turn it back to a polling question to Shanen, to see how awake you are this morning.

Shanen Wright:

All right, wake up everybody. I don't know how the weather is where you are, but it's a dreary, rainy morning here in West Virginia, where I'm coming to you from, but we want to hear from you. Let's see if you know the answer to this.

Shanen Wright:

The World Health Assembly has designated 2020 as the year of the nurse. What day in May marks the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale? Wow. So many candles on that cake. All right. See if you know the answer, is it May 1st, May 12th, May 13th or May 31st? We'll have the answer in a moment. But now back to Rox with more news.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Okay, thank you. So now, telehealth updates. I know this is a brand new experience for some of you, and we just wanted to go over some basic information and changes.

Roxanne Fletcher:

On April 30th, the Trump administration issued more changes to support the COVID-19 public health emergency. When you receive your slides, if you go to this press release, you can click on the link to the actual press release. And some highlights include the video requirement for some behavioral health, speech therapy and other E&M telehealth services is now waived.

Roxanne Fletcher:

And then we have, as many of you already know, put together telehealth tips. And we've updated pages two and three to include some of these new changes, so please reach out, take this link, and you'll get some coding information that will be very helpful to you.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Next, we'll review additional telehealth updates, including a payment increase. Payments for the audio-only telephone services, including behavioral health and patient education services, were increased to match payments for similar office and outpatient visits, and will be retroactive to March 1, 2020.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Some telehealth providers – physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech language pathologists – are newly approved providers. And there is some new information regarding regulatory processes. CMS will follow a new sub regulatory process to consider requests by practitioners, so new telehealth services can be added.

Roxanne Fletcher:

CMS has put together a telehealth website and this is something new. It's telehealth.hhs.gov, and of course there is a link here. I did take a little tour of that, just to see how user friendly it is. I found it to be very user friendly, with some very basic information. It would be a great place for those of your patients

that are computer literate to visit as it explains telehealth and what's happening during COVID-19 for telehealth. I thought it was very interesting. It provides a nice intro for them.

Roxanne Fletcher:

And then for providers, it's just giving you some of the policies and some great tips on how to get started if you've never done telehealth. So it is worth a little visit out to that website.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Next, here is a Medicare telehealth video. This is a 23-minute video, describing the Medicare coverage and payment of virtual services. Answers to common questions about the expanded Medicare telehealth coverage during the COVID-19 public health emergency are also provided.

Roxanne Fletcher:

And so before we go to this part of our program, what I'd like to do is have Shanen give us the polling results.

Shanen Wright:

Let's see if you got this one right. We love to stump you and most of you did get this one correct. 50% of you indicated that Florence Nightingale's birthday is indeed May 12th. So not too long ago, she celebrated the big 200. I know that our producer April sets a time limit of 45 seconds, so you really didn't have time to go out and cheat, Google it or anything in the meantime. So a lot of you are on the ball with your trivia.

Shanen Wright:

We've got more polling coming up, but first, back to Rox.

Roxanne Fletcher:

So what is new for the MIPS program this year? There is a new 2020 Improvement Activity. Last month, CMS added a new Improvement Activity to the inventory related to the coronavirus pandemic. So just to give you a heads up on what's involved, clinicians can earn credit for participating in a COVID-19 clinical trial. This will provide data to help drive improvement in patient care and develop innovative best practices to manage the spread of COVID-19.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Quality Insights has updated the list of 2020 Improvement Activities for MIPS to include this activity. Again, we're providing a link here, so that you can access the whole list of Improvement Activities.

Roxanne Fletcher:

So now before we go on, we're going to test you again this morning. We really want to see, we know that you're getting ready for the Memorial Day weekend, we want to make sure you're still on your toes today. So Shanen, do you want to give them another question?

Shanen Wright:

Sure. This one's a true/false, so you got a 50/50 shot at it, but we want to know true or false, during the COVID-19 emergency, healthcare providers may use any non-public facing application to communicate with patients, without risking any federal penalties, even if the application isn't in compliance with HIPAA rules. Is that true or false? Let us know what you think and we'll have the answer coming up.

Shanen Wright:

But now, back to more news.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Okay, perfect lead into the next section that we're going to be reviewing today, COVID-19 clinical trial specifications. So this is a breakdown that will cover what you would need to do to be in compliance with the trial specifications for the Improvement Activity.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Then we have information about earning credit for COVID-19 clinical trials. You must utilize a drug or biological product to treat COVID-19 positive patients. Clinicians must attest that they participated in the trial and must report findings through a clinical data repository or clinical data registry. Oracle's COVID-19 therapeutic learning system is an example of that, and there is a link in the slides, so you can look at that to see what's involved.

Roxanne Fletcher:

We have also given you a complete list of the international clinical studies. This is another link that will provide you with the whole list, if you're interested in seeing if this is something you wish to participate in.

Roxanne Fletcher:

And just to let you know, clinical trials are actively recruiting. Quality Insights compiled a list of clinical trials in the U.S. that are actively recruiting participants and meet the criteria for the new improvement activity. As of April 24th, there were 60 trials that utilized a drug intervention, five that utilized a biological product.

Roxanne Fletcher:

22 trials included, one that we've heard a lot about, hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir, and four include Losartan. And there are two trials that include convalescent plasma, which you've also heard a lot about that as well. So when you get your slides, just click on that link, and you'll see the full list of the trials that are going on.

Roxanne Fletcher:

And then we have our COVID-19 resources. But before we go over that, Shanen, what are our polling results?

Shanen Wright:

All right, let's see if you got this one right, folks. Let's take look at those results, and 71% of you did get the correct answer, it is true. During the COVID-19 emergency, healthcare providers may use any non-public facing application to communicate with patients without risking any federal penalties.

Shanen Wright:

Acceptable forms of communication during the crisis include Apple FaceTime, Zoom, GoToMeeting, Chime and cert vendor telehealth, just to name a few. So once again, we've got a very informed audience here on QPPLive!. Rox?

Roxanne Fletcher:

All right. So we have listed some resources for you that you can click on the links, go out to the coronavirus website, the Quality Insights coronavirus website that we have set up. That gives you up to date information, what's happening. We have put things in categories, so it's easy to find different areas of interest that you might want information about. We listed our telehealth information website. And also, there's the White House Task Force information, as well as CMS information on the current emergencies website.

Roxanne Fletcher:

So we just want you to be aware of an upcoming webinar titled Understanding How to Implement Telehealth Services. This is focused on understanding new flexibilities to the Quality Payment Program due to COVID-19. It will include how to implement telehealth services, implementations for billing and participation in MIPS, and tips on how to best modify your practice workflows.

Roxanne Fletcher:

We're always interested to get your feedback on how you've adapted your workflows to accommodate reaching out to your patients and providing telehealth services. This webinar is offered on two different dates: Tuesday, May 26, 3:30 to 4:30. If you can't make that one, there is also Thursday, May 28, 11:00 to 12:00. So they're very informative. We invite you to participate.

Roxanne Fletcher:

Okay, Shanen, thank you everyone for your time.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you so much for that great information, Rox. So we're going to kick off the interactive portion now. We'll continue to have polling questions and this is your opportunity to interact with our panel of experts here at the Quality Payment Program Support Center at Quality Insights.

Shanen Wright:

The QPP team includes Kathy Wild, who is our project manager, Amy Weiser, who is our lead project coordinator for QPP, me, I'm Shanen Wright, I'm the associate project director and host of this show. We also have our panel of experts who help you day in and day out with your QPP questions and

concerns, including Rox, who gave a great update with today's news. We have Andrea Phillips, Shirley Sullivan, Marvin Nichols, Julie Williams, Joe Pinto, Rebecca Dase, and Lisa Sagwitz.

Shanen Wright:

So if this is your first time joining us for QPPLive!, here is how it works if you've got questions. Simply bring up the Q&A box in your WebEx player. You see the little circle? You might have to hover over your player to bring it up. But if you hover over, you'll see the three little dots in the circle, you just press on that, you'll see a Q&A box open on the right side of your screen, you can type in your question and hit send.

Shanen Wright:

You also want to open your chat feature as well. It looks like the little bubble there, you see in blue? You can open that up, but we ask that you not use chat for your questions, because we're actually going to be sending you direct web links to the resources that we are discussing here on QPPLive! So you can click directly on those links and open up a website for the type of information that we are talking about.

Shanen Wright:

Some of you may be dialed in on the telephone, as opposed to listening through your computer speakers. If that's the case, at least once today, we will unmute the phone lines, so you can interact with our panel of experts verbally, providing your questions or comments. The one aspect that we do ask is that if you don't have a question for us or a comment, please make sure and keep the phone line muted on your end, so we're not eavesdropping on what's going on in your practice or in your office today.

Shanen Wright:

Keep in mind that we are here to help you anytime, not just on the third Thursday of every month during QPPLive!. If you don't have an individual contact here at Quality Insights, you can use our general QPP inbox for inquiries or reach out to any of us. We'll make sure that you get to the right person when you do.

Shanen Wright:

We'll do the best that we can to answer all of the questions presented today. But realize that we may need to follow up with you. You guys have some great, detailed questions, and we want to make sure that we are accurate in our responses. So in many cases, we'll take down your contact information and either shoot you an e-mail or give you a call.

Shanen Wright:

Please also keep in mind that rules and interpretations change over time, especially if you are viewing this as a recording and not on May 21, 2020 at 9:46 a.m. So keep that in mind. But most of all, we here at the Quality Insights Quality Payment Program Support Center want to establish a relationship with you, so that you can succeed in the Quality Payment Program.

Shanen Wright:

So let's go ahead and get those questions coming in through the Q&A box right now. You'll note in chat that Rebecca also has posted for us the contact information for the QPP Support Center at Quality Insights, including our e-mail address and the general inbox, qpp-surs@qualityinsights.org. Our phone number, 1.877.497.5065 and of course, our website at www.qppsupport.org.

Shanen Wright:

Let's get another polling question out there, April. This is another fun one today, May 21. So some good trivia, you can amuse your quarantine partners with this tonight.

Shanen Wright:

May 21 is known as what day? Is that National Chocolate Chip Day? National Mimosa Day? National Buttermilk Biscuit Day? Or is it National Strawberries and Cream Day? I got to tell you, all those sound pretty good to me right now. Let's see if you know. Coming up we will have the answer to that.

Shanen Wright:

But first, we've got a question coming in from one of our audience members here. This person says, in regard to the increase in reimbursement for the telephone only codes submitted to insurance prior to a fee increase, will the insurance companies automatically reprocess at the higher rate? Do we need to call them?

Shanen Wright:

Thank you for the information and love this feedback, Patti. The only webinar I look forward to. Thank you, we appreciate that. Anyone want to take a stab at the question?

Roxanne Fletcher:

Hey, it's Rox. I was actually just reading something on one of the websites, Patti, and it did say that you do need to reach out directly to those insurance companies to find out what the reimbursement will be. I don't know if somebody else wants to jump in on that, but that's what I've recently read.

Shanen Wright:

Not hearing anyone else jumping in. Let's go ahead and get to another audience question. Then, we will take a look at those polling results and find out what May 21 is known for.

Shanen Wright:

But first, Mary asks, would you please review requirements for small practices for MIPS 2020?

Rabecca Dase:

Hi, this is Rabecca, I can take that one. Before I answer, I was talking away, in addition to what Rox had said to Patti. Patti, in regard to your question, I'm on the same page as Rox to reach out to each

insurance company individually and see what their requirements are. Just so you're not being left behind or anything like that, it's probably better to be proactive.

Rabecca Dase:

And then Mary asked for requirements for 2020. They are very similar to 2019. For the Quality category, you will report data for a full year. So 366 days, because it was a leap year, you will want to report on six quality measures.

Rabecca Dase:

For the Promoting Interoperability category, the timeframe to report is a minimum of 90 days, and you would need to have a certified EHR in place and you would report on those measures. Or, if you do not have an EHR in place, that's okay too. As a small practice, you can actually apply for a hardship exception, which would then reweigh it from the Promoting Interoperability category to the Quality category.

Rabecca Dase:

For the Improvement Activity category, again, for most activities, that is a minimum of a 90-day reporting period, and you can pick your Improvement Activities, they're not pre-set for you. As a small practice, you would want to report on one high weighted activity or two medium. And then as you're performing those activities, you would want to make sure that you're collecting your supporting documentation to support saying what you're doing in the event of an audit in the future.

Rabecca Dase:

And then for the Cost category, you do not have to report anything to CMS for that. The reporting period is a full year, again, January 1st to December 31st. And CMS will calculate your Cost score based on administrative claims that were submitted throughout the entire year.

Rabecca Dase:

There are some bonus points that are available for a couple of the categories. For instance, in the Quality category, there's a small practice bonus, which automatically assigns six points to the quality numerator. For Promoting Interoperability, there are some bonus points if you query the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. And that's just a high level overview.

Rabecca Dase:

If you have a practice transformation specialist, reach out to us, we'd be happy to dig deeper into that. And if not, put your contact information in there and we will be happy to reach out to you as well to make sure that you know everything you need to know for 2020.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you, Rabecca. All right, April. Let's take a look at those results right now and see if... Wow, we can't stump you here. I hope you're not just Googling these and cheating now, folks, because 67% of you got the correct answer. Today, May 21 is National Strawberries and Cream Day. I hope you have some

strawberries and cream, which sounds absolutely delicious. Me, I was partial to the buttermilk biscuits, but hey, I'm from West Virginia. We love our biscuits here.

Shanen Wright:

More polling coming up, and we're going to unmute the phone lines for those of you who are called in, if you have a question or a comment for our panelists. In fact, let's go ahead and throw out another polling question. What the heck? It sounds fun.

Shanen Wright:

Here's a MIPS-related one for the QPP program. This question says during a telehealth visit, the clinician should A) identify himself, herself to the new patients and confirm the patient's identity; B) obtain verbal consent; C) make sure that the patient's equipment is working; D) keep the visit as much like an in-person visit as possible; or E) all of the above. That's a toughy. Let's see if you know the answer to that.

Shanen Wright:

While you're submitting your answers to that, we're going to have a new feature here on QPPLive!. Let's go around the table and talk about frequently asked questions that our panel of experts are hearing from folks just like you in the field.

Shanen Wright:

Let's start with Joe. Joe, what is a common question that you are hearing from practices related to telehealth or the 2019 preliminary MIPS scores?

Joe Pinto:

Sure, Shanen, not a problem. One of the questions that I'm getting most frequently over the last couple of months, now that the 2019 performance year has ended and the data has been submitted and the focus has changed to 2020, is regarding the MIPS Value Pathways. That's the MVPs that everybody had become a little bit familiar with hearing about over the final months of the 2019 calendar year. And whether or not they need to be concerned and set up to report basically through the MVP process for 2020.

Joe Pinto:

And the simple answer to that is, no. Now, CMS is going to begin implementing the framework gradually over this year, for beginning the MVP Pathway reporting process, beginning next year in 2020, during that performance period. But as of right now, the framework is still being put together and over the coming months, they will continue to collaborate with us with information.

Joe Pinto:

And that's what we want you to do – to reach out to us for any questions that you have regarding the MIPS Value Pathways. As we get the information provided to us through CMS, we will definitely get it out to the practices. You can also check out the QPP website's resource guide, as well as your Quality

Insights website resource guide, and we will be listing any information pertaining to the MIPS Value Pathways as it becomes available.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you, Joe. If you have a question, make sure and get it in before we run out of time. Time flies when you're having fun here on QPPLive!, so use that Q&A box. Get your questions in now, make sure to also check out the chat box. Rabbecca posted a link to the 2020 MIPS Quick Start Guide as well. So you can just click right on that and bring it up.

Shanen Wright:

Now some of you may be on the phone right now. Heads up, if you don't have a question or comment, please make sure and unmute the line on your end. But if you do, April, let's open up those phone lines and see if we have any questions or comments from our attendees.

Shanen Wright:

Okay, we're not hearing any questions, but a little bit of background noise. So, oops, yeah, maybe next month you'll remember to hit the mute button on that, but know that we are here to help you anytime, not just during QPPLive!. So if you'd like to talk with any of our folks, please contact us anytime.

Shanen Wright:

Let's take a look at those polling results now. Let's see if you got it right and once again, the most informed QPP audience in America here on QPPLive!. 81% of you got it right. It's all of the above. During the telehealth visit, you should identify yourself to new patients, obtain verbal consent, make sure the equipment is working, and keep the visit as much like an in-person visit as possible. So, yay for you all.

Shanen Wright:

Let's go out for another question we've got here, coming in to us from our audience. This one asks, is there any indication as to how long the telehealth services will be preferred by CMS or when it will end?

Rabbecca Dase:

Hi, this is Rabbecca. Patti, I see your question and I love how active you are on every QPPLive! in our chat box. It really helps get the conversation going.

Rabbecca Dase:

So as it stands now, I really haven't heard when they are expecting to lift the telehealth promotion and services or anything like that. So unfortunately, I can't give you a definite answer on that. But as soon as we know anything, as Joe mentioned before, we always notify the practices of any breaking news that we receive.

Rabecca Dase:

So you'll probably hear through a newsletter. Make sure you are signed up for the listservs. And again, our newsletter will also be coming out and then I'll also reach out to you, since we work together. I will reach out to you and just let you know anything that we hear on that.

Amy:

Rabecca, this is Amy, I just wanted to add on to your comments, which are awesome. So Patti, Administrator Verma has indicated that the genie is out of the bottle in relation to telehealth. So, of course, we can't predict what exactly is going to happen. But there's a pretty good indication, based on the webinars that we've been attending and information that we're getting, that CMS really wants to continue on this path. So it'll be interesting to see what happens. So thanks for your question.

Rabecca Dase:

I just want to add, Amy, that's a great, great, great point. Something I'll add on to that too is, even if we continue in the telehealth path, which Amy mentioned, which again, genie out of the bottle, chances are it'll probably change a little bit. We won't have all the expansions that we do now. We'll have to somehow figure out how to dial it back in and still make it usable in our practice.

Rabecca Dase:

But like Amy said, the genie is probably out of the bottle on telehealth.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you, Amy and Rabecca. All right, let's get one final polling question in today. And then if you've got a question, time's running short, make sure you get it in the Q&A box, but we're also going to find out some of the frequently asked questions we're hearing, but first from you, May is National Salad Month. Isn't there a month for everything? It's amazing.

Shanen Wright:

What is the most popular salad dressing in the United States? And, no, we're not putting that on our strawberries and cream. That sounds disgusting. But what goes on your salad? Is it Italian, Ranch, Blue Cheese or Thousand Island? I know among those, two of them I like, two I don't. Let's see what you think, we'll hear more about that coming up.

Shanen Wright:

But right now, Rabecca, tell me what is a common question you're hearing from practices related to telehealth or the 2019 preliminary MIPS scores?

Rabecca Dase:

One thing that I'm hearing often is practices are getting in and they're starting to look at that preliminary feedback and they're saying, why am I only receiving three MIPS points when I have a performance rate that's showing at 100% if they've submitted via claims.

Rabecca Dase:

And so then we have to go back into what's required for each measure. Even though it's showing at 100%, there's still some things that you need to consider. For small practices to be eligible to earn more than three points for each measure, the measure has to have a benchmark, there must be 20 or more patients in the denominator to be reliably scored and you have to meet data completeness. And for 2019, that was 60%, which means you had to report on 60% of your eligible population for that measure, in order to meet that data completeness. And just a side note, that does increase to 70% for 2020.

Rabecca Dase:

So if you don't meet all three of those things, unfortunately, you're only going to receive three points, even though it looks like you have a performance rate of 100%. So when you are in the QPP portal and you can see that feedback, you'll actually be able to see the detail and how many patients that you reported on, you'll be able to see what CMS considers your eligible population and what percentage you did report on.

Rabecca Dase:

So I think that's something really important to note too. I know last year we started having the discussion about when you're reporting via claims, do you just report on the ones that are all compliant and what not. But you want to make sure when you're reporting claims that you do report on the patients, whether they're compliant or not, that meet your denominator criteria, so that you can meet that data completeness threshold, and make sure you are eligible for more than three points.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you, Rabecca. All right, April, let's see, what is the most popular salad dressing in the United States? Once again, 59% of you nailed it again. Ranch is the most popular. I'm a little sad for Thousand Island; no one picked that. I like Thousand Island dressing. Well, at least on my Big Macs, it's pretty good there.

Shanen Wright:

36% of you said Italian, Italian is pretty good. And then, yuck, Blue Cheese. 5% said that, but that's definitely not my favorite, but, hey, to each their own, whatever we like. Nice salad to go along with those strawberries and cream. We're being healthy in the month of May, getting our beach bodies ready for the summer.

Shanen Wright:

All right, before we wrap up today, I want to just throw it out to our remaining practice transformation specialists, and if anyone would like to jump in and let us know, what is a common question that you are hearing from practices related to telehealth and the 2019 preliminary MIPS scores? Anybody?

Roxanne Fletcher:

Hey, Shanen, it's Rox, it really isn't a question, it's actually a plug for us. But I wanted to just remind those that are listening today, that if you're not receiving our newsletter or if you have other practices that you communicate with, that are not getting our information, we would love to get your e-mail address, so that we can keep you up to date with the most up to date information that we get. So go to our website, reach out to us on the support line with your e-mail address, so we can make sure you get our information as soon as we get it from CMS.

Shanen Wright:

That is an excellent point, Rox. Make sure you're signed up for that, because this is a newsletter you're actually going to use. There's a lot of useful information, as Rox said. We get information out to you as soon as we hear from CMS. So, hey, you can be the first to know, no fear of missing out, if you subscribe to the Quality Payment Program newsletter from Quality Insights. And of course, like everything we offer, including QPPLive!, it is absolutely free. So make sure and reach out to us.

Shanen Wright:

If you would like to start receiving that, we'll also let you know about other upcoming events such as the webinars Rox mentioned before and of course, for QPPLive! which takes place each and every month. Let's throw it out again. Anyone else have a common question that you're hearing related to telehealth, MIPS, anything? What are you hearing on the street, frequently asked questions?

Rabecca Dase:

Shanen, this is Rabecca, I'll go again. Something that I have been hearing is that their quality codes are being denied. They're reaching out saying I'm using the same quality codes for my measures. Why are they being denied and rejected and sent back to me? I'm using the same codes that I used last year.

Rabecca Dase:

I think this is a good opportunity to stress to people on the call that are using claims that every year, you want to make sure that you are reviewing the measure specification sheets for each measure that you're reporting, because sometimes those measures do change, and the codes are a little bit different and whatnot. So always make sure to review your specifications for each performance year, to pick up any change that might have occurred.

Rabecca Dase:

I will go ahead and put the link to specifications for claims measures in the chat box. So if you are reporting via claims, you will have that there. And keep in mind, even if you are using a registry or EHR, there are specifications for those measures as well.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you, Rabecca. We've got about five more minutes left until we're going to wrap things up. So audience members, if you have any other questions or comments, now is the time to get them in.

Shanen Wright:

In the meantime, we're going to go back out to our practice transformation specialists. I think I saw a question earlier that Lisa indicated she was hearing frequently. Lisa, would you like to share that with the audience?

Lisa Sagwitz:

Hi, yes. Oftentimes, I'm asked how will I know when the 2019 final MIPS score is available this summer. So there are two sources. One, you can make sure you're checking our Quality Insights newsletter, we will announce that as soon as it's available. Also, the CMS QPP e-mail, if you're on that distribution list, will definitely announce that.

Lisa Sagwitz:

And if you get busy and you can't always check your e-mails, mark your calendar for July 1st and August 1st, and then go to the website qpp.cms.gov. Use the sign-in option with your HARP account number and your password. And when they are available, there'll be an announcement there. I would imagine the very first box you'll see is 2019 quality payment program scores. And then you could look at those as an individual provider or as a group. I always suggest to the practices that I work with to print the final score and keep that in your 2019 MIPS binder with your other audit information. And then the exciting part is you'll find out what your payment adjustment is for all the hard work that you've done all year.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you, Lisa. As we wind things down today, how about you, Joe? Do you have another common question that you're hearing from practices?

Joe Pinto:

One of the other questions that I get from time to time, especially for practices that may not have an EHR system or they choose to instead of manually submitting their quality data through the QPP website, is what is the difference between a clinical data registry and a QCDR? Because you see those two terms used frequently and there is some confusion as to which one is which.

Joe Pinto:

So basically in a nutshell, for a clinical data registry, the explanation is that it is a registry administered by or on behalf of other non-public health agency entities. And they provide information that can inform patients and their healthcare providers on the best course of treatment and for care improvements, and can support specialty reporting by developing reporting for areas not usually covered by public health agencies, but are important to a specialist provision of care.

Joe Pinto:

Now, when you compare that with a QCDR, which is a qualified clinical data registry, a QCDR may count as long as the submission to the registry is not only for the purposes of the requirements for MIPS reporting. So in other words, the submission may count if the registry is also using the data for public

health purposes. And many QCDRs use the data for a public health purpose, beyond quality data reporting to CMS.

Joe Pinto:

So if you've had confusion or a question on what the difference is between the two types of registries, I hope that clears it up. If you do need additional information or clarification, reach out to your practice transformation specialist with Quality Insights. We'd be more than happy to help you through the process explaining it. And if you're looking to choose one, we will provide you with a list of the available approved data registries for the 2020 performance year that CMS has made available as well.

Shanen Wright:

Thank you, Joe, and thank you all for joining us for today's May 2020 edition of QPPLive!. Mark your calendars. We'll do it again in June. That's on the 18th, the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 in the morning. Please remember as you exit today's webinar, you're going to get a link to an evaluation. We'd really appreciate if you fill that out. That helps us provide better services to you and help you with the Quality Payment Program as well.

Shanen Wright:

Keep in mind too, the upcoming webinar Understanding How to Implement Telehealth Services will be presented Tuesday, May 26 at 3:30 with an encore on Thursday on May 28 at 11:00 a.m. On behalf of everybody at Quality Insights Quality Payment Program Support Center, thanks for joining us and have a great Memorial Day weekend. Goodbye.