Overview
A Qualified Registry (QR) is a CMS-approved entity that collects clinical quality measure data from individual MIPS-eligible clinicians, groups or virtual groups and submits it to CMS on their behalf. Qualified registries, like MIPScast®, can provide additional services and features such as score comparisons of different measure selections and reporting scenarios, detailed analytics and performance tracking over time.

MIPScast® is qualified to submit data for all MIPS CQMs and eCQMs in the Quality performance category, plus all Promoting Interoperability measures and Improvement Activities for the 2020 performance year.*

How it Works
Active MIPScast® clinicians and practices can register to be a QR participant at any time until the registration deadline. Performance feedback based on data imported or manually entered in MIPScast® is available in the Score Prediction and analytics features. QR Participants will also receive direct feedback and reminders about deadlines, incomplete performance category data, and eligibility verification. Feedback may include suggestions to improve your score or data validation questions to assure acceptance of your data by CMS.

A limited number of QR participants will be asked to provide a sample of detailed patient-level data through a randomized audit process required by CMS to verify the accuracy and completeness of measure calculations for the data provided to MIPScast® by QR participants.

Participating clinicians and groups are responsible for the accuracy of all data imported or entered into MIPScast® by themselves or on their behalf and for maintaining documentation to support ALL measures and activities reported to CMS by the registry. Follow the MIPS Audit File Checklist on the QPP Resource Center website for guidance.

*QRs do not submit Medicare Part B Claims, CMS Web Interface, QCDR, or CAHPS for MIPS Survey data, which must be reported by other methods.
MIPScast® 2020 QR Participation Guide

Reasons to Consider Using MIPScast® QR for Reporting to CMS

You may want to use the MIPScast® QR reporting option simply for the convenience of having a trusted partner do the submission work for you. Perhaps you want the confidence of knowing your data has been reviewed to check for completeness, catch potential validation issues earlier, and get feedback about available reporting options/bonuses that can improve your total score.

Many clinicians do not have an EHR, or have one but are without the functionality and updated reports to get the performance data needed for MIPS reporting. Some will need an alternative to reporting eCQMs from an EHR, either because they do not have one, or due to EHR vendor issues including:

- Vendor having difficulty attaining 2015 Edition certification, or using de-certified EHR technology (including 2014 Edition CEHRT)
- Unable to upgrade and implement 2015 Edition technology in a timely manner due to vendor issues or delays
- Reporting/data issues (e.g. limited eCQM availability, invalid QRDA-3 reports, inability to produce group-level aggregated reports)
- Having to acquire and implement additional 3rd party technology to support your functional needs and reporting requirements
- Cost barriers (e.g. additional costs for eCQM report access, eCQM access bundled with costly data submission services)
- Difficult eCQM workflows, system configuration, and EHR documentation requirements leading to low performance results

Claims-based reporting for the Quality Performance Category is one alternative, but you have to submit Quality Data Codes (aka “G-codes”) on your Medicare claims throughout the 12-month performance period to get credit. Another alternative is to report through a QR such as MIPScast®, which provides the option to report MIPS CQMs (formerly referred to as “Registry measures”) that can only be collected and submitted by QRs and QCDRs.
MIPScast® 2020 QR Participation Guide

Getting Started
Clinicians and practices that have joined the QPP Resource Center and have a “Verified” status can register for the MIPScast® QR reporting option to submit their performance data to CMS. MIPS data submission is included as part of the free support available to all clinicians and small practices in the QPP Resource Center.

The QR reporting option is also included for any clinician or practice that has purchased a QPP support package through Altarum, or are covered by a separate MIPScast® software license agreement.

Register for MIPScast® QR participation by completing these easy steps:

1. Verify your eligibility specifically for how you want to report to MIPS: Individual or Group (or both)
   ▪ Advisors and resource materials on the QPP Resource Center portal can help you determine MIPS program eligibility
   ▪ Be sure to check your APM Participation Status for all TINs where you bill Medicare or have assigned your billing rights

2. Sign the Data Release Consent Form and Business Associate Agreement no later than 2/15/2021
   ▪ Both documents are required for participating with a QR to collect and submit your data. MIPScast® does not collect or send any PHI data for measure calculations (some registries do), however the BAA is necessary should you be selected in the Randomized Audit sample that QR’s are required to conduct as part of data validation prior to submitting any data to CMS.
   ▪ Clinicians who are eligible to report for more than one TIN-NPI combination must complete separate consent forms for each.
   ▪ Clinicians eligible to report individually who are in a practice that chooses to report as a group may do so, but will need to sign a separate consent form to also authorize their individual MIPS data submission by the QR (you can add or change your consent(s) through 2/15/2021).
MIPScast® 2020 QR Participation Guide

Accessing the Data Release Consent Form and Business Associate Agreement

- The Data Release Consent Form (DRCF) to register for QR participation is accessed from the “Welcome” page [https://mipscast.org/altarum/welcome](https://mipscast.org/altarum/welcome).
- Consent form links are labeled according to Individual (clinician) and Group (practice) reporting options.
- Clicking either link takes you to the secure DocuSign page where you can agree to fill and sign the consent form.
- The required Business Associate Agreement (BAA) will also be included with the consent form on the DocuSign site, unless you have a type of MIPScast® user license that already has a current BAA in place with your organization.
Filling and Signing the Data Release Consent Form and Business Associate Agreement

- You will need to begin by checking the box to agree to the DocuSign electronic record and signature disclosure, then click the “Continue” button.

- As you read the agreement, if you hover over each box, instructions will be provided as to the type of information that should be entered into that box.

- Note that some of the boxes are set to auto-populate after information is entered into an earlier box.

- After completing the form, it will automatically be sent to the legal department at Altarum Institute for counter-signature.

- Once Altarum counter-signs, you will automatically receive a fully executed copy of the agreement from DocuSign for your records. Please contact mipscastinfo@altarum.org with any questions about the agreement.
Registration Confirmation and Next Steps

- You will be contacted if there are any questions or issues with your registration, such as an invalid TIN or NPI entered, not MIPS-eligible (or not Opt-In eligible) for the selected reporting level, duplicate registration, etc.

- After the agreements are fully executed, you will receive an email from mipscastinfo@altarum.org to confirm your registration and to provide initial feedback on any MIPS performance data already entered, or instructions to get started with importing or entering your MIPS data if still needed.

- If you need support with MIPS program rules and reporting requirements, please contact the QPP Resource Center to connect with a QPP Advisor if you are a QPP Resource Center member (contact information on the last page in this guide).

  - If you are not eligible for the free technical assistance available through the QPP Resource Center and have purchased a QPP support package through Altarum, or are covered by a MIPScast® software license agreement, please reach out directly to your dedicated advisor or other designated point of contact.
# Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2020 – February 15, 2021</td>
<td>Clinicians and groups can register as 2020 Qualified Registry Participants by signing the Consent form and BAA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2020 – March 31, 2021</td>
<td>Review MIPScast® feedback on your latest MIPS performance when available. Notices of feedback will be sent at least 4 times before the end of the performance period submission window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring/Summer 2020</td>
<td>QPP Hardship Exception Application Window Opens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3, 2020</td>
<td>Last day to start a 90-day Performance Period for Promoting Interoperability and Improvement Activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2020</td>
<td>Performance Year 2020 Eligibility Finalized by CMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 2020</td>
<td>Performance Year 2020 Ends. QPP Hardship Exception Application Window Closes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 4, 2021 – March 31, 2021</td>
<td>Submission Window Open for Performance Year 2020. Data must be in MIPScast® before the deadline or it will not be submitted to CMS. Data entered too close to the CMS deadline might not be able to be validated by us and therefore may not be submitted to CMS. Be sure to have all of your final data entered as early as possible to ensure sufficient time for us to perform the required data validation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MIPScast® 2020 QR Participation Guide

Resources

Qualified Registry General Inquiries or Registration Help
mipscastinfo@altarum.org

QPP Participation Status Lookup Tool
https://qpp.cms.gov/participation-lookup

MIPS Support and Resources
QPP Resource Center® for the Midwest
https://qppresourcecenter.com
  • Please contact the QPP Resource Center for technical assistance with MIPS eligibility, MIPS program rules and scoring information, measure selection, data collection, data validation, audit file documentation, etc.

MIPScast® Help Desk
mipscast@altarum.org
  • Please use this if you experience a system error or have specific questions or problems with the MIPScast® app