

MARYLAND'S EPISODE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EQIP)

A value-based Medicare incentive payment opportunity for Maryland practitioners

What is EQIP?

- EQIP is a voluntary program that will provide incentive payments to practitioners who improve the quality of care and reduce the cost of care that they provide to Maryland Medicare patients.
- EQIP tests an approach that ties healthcare payments to the quality and cost of services provided under a clinical **'episode'** for a set period. This includes a relevant set of services delivered to a related to a medical condition, procedure or health care event during a defined time period.

What is my Role?



"Care Partner"
(a specialty practitioner)

- Triggers episodes and performs EQIP care interventions
- Signs a Care Partner Arrangement (contract)
- Receives normal fee-schedule payments from Medicare and a potential "Incentive Payment" with the EQIP Entity
- Eligible to achieve Quality Payment Program Status and bonuses



"EQIP Entity"
(1+ Care Partners)

- Conducts performance evaluation
- Can be any grouping of Care Partners who agree to work together in EQIP
- Receives Incentive Payments



Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission

- Calculates episodes, monitors performance and determines Incentive Payments
- Maintains reporting and monitoring requirements with CMS
- Facilitates EQIP Entity and Care Partner Enrollment, Reporting and Learning Systems
- Assists with contracting and Incentive Payment through the University of Maryland Medical Center (physician affiliation is not required for participation in EQIP)

Benefits for Maryland Practitioners:

Practitioner ownership of performance

Policy tailored to independent and employ practitioner practice

Upside-only risk with dissavings accountability

EQIP will provide a lump sum bonus to normal Medicare Payment

Alignment with other payers

Can apply to both Medicare and Commercially insured patients

Advanced alternative payment model participation opportunity

*MIPS reporting Exemption
Bonus from Medicare payment*

What Episodes Can I Select as an EQIP Entity?

<u>Allergy</u>	Allergic Rhinitis, Asthma	<u>Pulmonary / Critical Care</u>	Acute CHF / Pulmonary Edema, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Deep Vein Thrombosis / Pulmonary Embolism, Pneumonia, Sepsis
<u>Behavioral Health</u>	Chronic Anxiety, Recurrent Depression		
<u>Cardiology</u>	Pacemaker / Defibrillator, Acute Myocardial Infarction, CABG &/or Valve Procedures, Coronary Angioplasty	<u>Rheumatology</u>	Rheumatoid Arthritis
<u>Dermatology</u>	Cellulitis, Decubitus Ulcer, Dermatitis	<u>Urology</u>	Catheter Associated UTIs, Prostatectomy, Transurethral Resection Prostate, UTI
<u>Gastroenterology</u>	Colonoscopy, Colorectal Resection, Gall Bladder Surgery, Upper GI Endoscopy		
<u>Ophthalmology</u>	Cataract, Glaucoma	<u>Emergency Department</u>	Abdominal Pain & Gastrointestinal Symptoms, Asthma/COPD, Atrial Fibrillation, Chest Pain, Deep Vein Thrombosis, Dehydration & Electrolyte Derangements, Diverticulitis, Fever, Fatigue or Weakness, Hyperglycemia, Nephrolithiasis, Pneumonia, Shortness of Breath, Skin & Soft Tissue Infection, Syncope, Urinary Tract Infection
<u>Orthopedics</u>	Accidental Falls, Hip Replacement & Hip Revision, Hip/Pelvic Fracture, Knee Arthroscopy, Knee Replacement & Knee Revision, Low Back Pain, Lumbar Laminectomy, Lumbar Spine Fusion, Osteoarthritis, Rotator Cuff, Shoulder Replacement, Musculoskeletal Disorders		

How do I Participate?



1. You must qualify as a Care Partner with CMS

- Must be licensed and enrolled in the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS)
- Must use CEHRT and CRISP, Maryland's health information exchange



2. You must enroll in EQIP

- Establish EQIP Entity with multiple Care Partners
- Select Episodes and Interventions and agree to quality metrics*
- Sign a Care Partner Arrangement
- Determine Payment Remission Recipient*



3. You must meet episode thresholds

- Provide care in Maryland
- For a single episode, threshold = 11 episodes in the baseline
- Across all episodes of participation, threshold = 50 episodes in the baseline



Enrollment Opens July 15, 2024

Enrollment opportunity will close Friday, August 30, 2024

Performance Year 4 will run January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT EQIP@CRISPHEALTH.ORG

