

Supporting Statement – Part B
Quality Payment Program/Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
CMS-10621, OMB 0938-1314
Collections of Information Employing Statistical Models

Introduction

The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) is one of two paths for clinicians available through the Quality Payment Program authorized by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The Quality Payment Program replaced three precursor Medicare reporting programs with a flexible system that allows clinicians to choose from two paths that link quality to payments: the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs). The MIPS path measures MIPS eligible clinicians and groups on the following performance areas: quality – a set of evidence-based, specialty-specific standards; improvement activities that focus on practice-based improvements; cost; and use of certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) to support interoperability and advanced quality objectives in a single, cohesive program that avoids redundancies. Under the APM path, clinicians participating in certain types of APMs (Advanced APMs) may become Qualifying APM participants (QPs) and be excluded from MIPS. QPs will receive lump-sum APM incentive payments equal to 5 percent of their estimated aggregate payment amounts for Medicare covered professional services in the preceding year.

The primary purpose of this collection is to generate data on a MIPS eligible clinician or group so that CMS can assess MIPS eligible clinician performance in the four performance categories, calculate the final score, and apply performance-based payment adjustments. We will also use this information to provide regular performance feedback to MIPS eligible clinicians and eligible entities. This information will also be made available to beneficiaries, as well as to the general public, on the care compare tool hosted by the U.S. Department of Health and Services. In addition, the data collected under this PRA will be used for research, evaluation, and measure assessment and refinement activities.

Specifically, CMS uses the data to produce annual statistical reports that provide a comprehensive representation of the overall experience of MIPS eligible clinicians as a whole and subgroups of MIPS eligible clinicians. The data was also utilized to fulfill a MACRA requirement in the GAO analysis of the MIPS data submitted to Congress on October 1, 2021.¹ Further, CMS has processes to monitor and assess measures to ensure their soundness and appropriateness for continued use in the MIPS. As required by the MACRA, the ongoing measure assessment and monitoring process will be used to refine, add, and drop measures as

¹ MACRA mandates that the GAO evaluate and make recommendations regarding the final scores and the impact of technical assistance. The report submitted to Congress is available at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-104667.pdf>.

appropriate, as shown in the finalized changes to the measure sets discussed in the CY 2022 PFS final rule. Supporting Statement Part B characterizes the respondents of this collection and any sampling used in data collection so that, when grouped/aggregated data are presented, the inferences that can be drawn from those data are clear.

There are 26 information collections in the CY 2022 PFS final rule requirements and burden estimates. The discussion in this Supporting Statement Part B focuses on the 7 information collections for which we plan to conduct statistical reporting and analyses: quality performance category data submitted via Medicare Part B claims, eCQM, and MIPS CQM and QCDR collection types, the quality performance category submissions for MVPs, the CMS Web Interface, and data submitted for the Promoting Interoperability and improvement activities performance categories.

- 1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

Quality Performance Category Data Submission

Potential respondent universe and response rates

We anticipate that two groups of clinicians will submit quality data under MIPS: those who submit as MIPS eligible clinicians and other eligible clinicians who submit data voluntarily. We estimate the potential respondent universe and response rates for MIPS eligible clinicians and clinicians excluded from MIPS using data from the CY 2019 performance period/2021 MIPS payment year and other CMS sources. To determine which QPs should be excluded from MIPS, we used Advanced APM payment and patient percentages from the APM Participant List for the final snapshot date for the 2019 QP performance period. From this data, we calculated the QP determinations as described in the Qualifying APM Participant definition at § 414.1305 for the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year. Due to data limitations, we could not identify specific clinicians who may become QPs in the CY 2022 performance period//2024 MIPS payment year; hence, our model may underestimate or overestimate the fraction of clinicians and allowed charges for covered professional services that will remain subject to MIPS after the exclusions.

We assume that 100 percent of ACO APM Entities will submit quality data to CMS as required under their models. While we do not believe there is additional reporting for ACO APM entities, consistent with assumptions used in the CY 2020 and CY 2021 PFS final rules (84 FR 63122 and 85 FR 84972), we include all quality data voluntarily submitted by MIPS APM participants made at the individual or TIN-level in our respondent estimates. As stated the CY 2022 PFS final rule, we assume non-ACO APM Entities will participate through traditional MIPS and submit as an individual or group rather than as an entity. To estimate who will be a MIPS APM participant that can report using the APM performance pathway (APP) to MIPS in the CY 2022 and CY 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years, we used the final snapshot data from the 2019 QP performance period. We elected to use this data source because the APM participant list for the 2019 final snapshot can reliably be used for MIPS APM participant projections.

As discussed in Supporting Statement A, we explain that we assume 809,593 MIPS eligible clinicians will submit data as individual clinicians (both required and voluntary), or as part of groups or APM entities in the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year. Included in this number, we estimate that 3,255 clinicians who exceeded at least one but not all low-volume threshold criteria, elected to opt-in and submitted data in the CY 2019 performance period/2021 MIPS payment year will elect to opt-in to MIPS in the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year. While this is the estimated number of MIPS eligible clinicians, the number of respondents that actually submit data varies significantly due to differences in individual, group, virtual group, and APM entity reporting and by the requirements and policies for each performance category.

CMS annual statistical reports about MIPS will be able to provide estimates of the numbers and percentages of MIPS eligible clinicians submitting quality that can be generalized to the entire population of MIPS eligible clinicians, and to relevant subpopulations (such as eligible clinicians participating in MIPS APMs).

Sampling for quality data submission

In the CY 2022 PFS final rule, we are finalizing to continue the 70 percent data completeness threshold for the CY 2022 and CY 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years. Tables 1a and 1b summarize the data completeness criteria for the CY 2022 and 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years.

TABLE 1a: Summary of Data Completeness Requirements and Performance Period by Collection Type for the 2022 and 2023 Performance Periods/ 2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years

Collection Type	Performance Period	Data Completeness
Medicare Part B Claims measures	Jan 1- Dec 31	For the CY 2022 and CY 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years, 70 percent sample of individual MIPS eligible clinician’s, or group’s Medicare Part B patients for the performance period.
Administrative claims measures	Jan 1- Dec 31	100 percent sample of individual MIPS eligible clinician’s Medicare Part B patients for the performance period.
QCDR measures, MIPS CQMs, and eCQMs	Jan 1- Dec 31	For the CY 2022 and CY 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years, 70 percent sample of individual MIPS eligible clinician’s, or group’s patients across all payers for the performance period.
CMS Web Interface measure (CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year only)	Jan 1- Dec 31	<p>Sampling requirements for the group’s Medicare Part B patients: populate data fields for the first 248 consecutively ranked and assigned Medicare beneficiaries in the order in which they appear in the group’s sample for each module/measure. If the pool of eligible assigned beneficiaries is less than 248, then the group would report on 100 percent of assigned beneficiaries.</p> <p>We note that the Web Interface submissions by clinicians in the Shared Savings Program are not subject to the PRA.</p>
CAHPS for MIPS survey measure	Jan 1- Dec 31	Sampling requirements for the group’s Medicare Part B patients

**TABLE 1b: Summary of Quality Data Submission Criteria for the CY 2022 and 2023 Performance Periods/
2024 and 2025 MIPS Payment Years for Individual Clinicians and Groups**

Clinician Type	Submission Criteria	Measure Collection Types (or Measure Sets) Available for Submission (Excludes Administrative Claims)
Individual Clinicians	Report at least six measures including one outcome measure, or if an outcome measure is not available report another high priority measure; if less than six measures apply then report on each measure that is applicable. Clinicians would need to meet the applicable data completeness standard for the applicable performance period for each collection type.	Individual MIPS eligible clinicians select their measures from the following collection types: Medicare Part B claims measures (individual clinicians in small practices only), MIPS CQMs, QCDR measures, eCQMs, or reports on one of the specialty measure sets if applicable.
Groups (non-CMS Web Interface for CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year; all groups for the CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year)	Report at least six measures including one outcome measure, or if an outcome measure is not available report another high priority measure; if less than six measures apply then report on each measure that is applicable. Clinicians would need to meet the applicable data completeness standard for the applicable performance period for each collection type.	Groups select their measures from the following collection types: Medicare Part B claims measures (small practices only), MIPS CQMs, QCDR measures, eCQMs, or the CAHPS for MIPS survey - or reports on one of the specialty measure sets if applicable.
Groups (CMS Web Interface for group of at least 25 clinicians for the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year)	Report on all measures included in the CMS Web Interface collection type and optionally the CAHPS for MIPS survey. Clinicians would need to meet the applicable data completeness standard for the applicable performance period for each collection type.	Groups report on all measures included in the CMS Web Interface measures collection type and optionally the CAHPS for MIPS survey. Groups of 16 or more clinicians who meet the case minimum of 200 will also be automatically scored on the administrative claims based all-cause hospital readmission measure.

Clinician Type	Submission Criteria	Measure Collection Types (or Measure Sets) Available for Submission (Excludes Administrative Claims)
MVP Participant (CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year)	An MVP Participant must select and report 4 quality measures, including 1 outcome measure (or, if an outcome measure is not available, 1 high priority measure, included in the MVP.	MVP Participants (individual MIPS eligible clinician, single specialty group, multispecialty group, subgroup, or APM Entity that is assessed on an MVP) report on the applicable measures and activities in MVPs included in the MVP Inventory.

As discussed in Supporting Statement A, we are finalizing the proposal in the CY 2022 PFS final rule to extend the CMS Web Interface measures as a collection type/submission type for groups of 25 or more clinicians for the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year. We note that we are finalizing to extend the CMS Web Interface as a collection type/submission type for clinicians in Shared Savings Program reporting the APM Performance Pathway through the CY 2024 performance period/2026 MIPS payment year. We are also finalizing the sunsetting of the CMS Web Interface as a collection type for groups of 25 or more clinicians beginning with the CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year. Beginning with the CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year, these groups will be required to use an alternate collection type which will have to be either the MIPS CQM and QCDR measures or eCQM collection type.

For the CMS Web Interface, organizations (groups, Shared Savings Program ACOs) will submit data on samples of the organization’s fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare beneficiaries that will be selected by CMS. CMS plans to use a Medicare beneficiary sampling method similar to that employed in the CY 2021 performance period/2023 MIPS payment year. The sample will be drawn in the fourth quarter of the performance period (e.g., in October of 2022 for the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year).

The first step in the CMS Web Interface quality measure sampling methodology is to identify the beneficiaries eligible for quality measurement. The assigned patient population is the foundation from which to measure quality performance. CMS will assign a Medicare beneficiary to an ACO or group based on current program rules. For ACOs, CMS will use beneficiaries assigned using the ACO assignment/alignment methodology.² For groups and virtual groups, CMS will use beneficiaries assigned using the MIPS assignment methodology.³ Using Medicare administrative data from January 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022, CMS will exclude the following beneficiaries from quality measurement eligibility:

- Beneficiaries with fewer than two primary care services⁴ within the organization, during the performance year.
- Beneficiaries with part-year eligibility in Medicare FFS Part A and Part B
- Beneficiaries in hospice.
- Beneficiaries who died.
- Beneficiaries who did not reside in the United States.

The remaining beneficiaries will be considered eligible for quality measurement.

The second step in the CMS Web Interface quality measure sampling methodology is to identify beneficiaries eligible for sampling into each measure. For beneficiaries identified as eligible for quality measurement, we determine if they are eligible for any of the specific quality measures based on the denominator criteria as outlined in the 2021 CMS Web Interface Measure Specifications and Supporting Documents. Due to limitations in the Medicare claims data, some denominator exclusion and exception criteria must be applied by organizations using medical record data. Diagnostic data from all claims for each assigned beneficiary are used to determine whether that beneficiary has a particular condition such as diabetes, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, or a range of other chronic conditions. A beneficiary may be counted in one or more of each of those categories based on the number of conditions s/he has. The clinical measure denominator criteria, such as age, gender, hospitalization, etc. are further applied to each diagnostic sub-group of beneficiaries to determine which patients are eligible for data submission on the measure.

CMS will select an initial random sample of 900 beneficiaries eligible for quality measurement and populate them into the measures for which they are eligible until a sample size of 616 is reached for each measure. If, after this step, a measure has fewer than 616 beneficiaries, CMS will select additional eligible beneficiaries until the measure has the required 616 or until there are no additional eligible beneficiaries available. When the beneficiary is eligible for multiple measures, they will be included in multiple measures. Although this

² The Shared Savings Program uses beneficiaries assigned in the third quarter of 2021. The Shared Savings Program beneficiary assignment methodology can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/sharedsavingsprogram/Financial-and-AssignmentSpecifications.html>

³ The MIPS assignment methodology for the CMS Web Interface and CAHPS for MIPS Survey document can be found on the CMS website at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Resource-Library/Resource-library.html>.

⁴ As defined by the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes.

sampling methodology does not guarantee that beneficiaries will have the same numeric rank across measures, it does increase the likelihood that a beneficiary will have a similar rank across measures. Therefore, a beneficiary with a low rank in one measure will likely have a low rank in other measures that he or she is eligible. The intent of this approach is to reduce reporting burden for the ACOs, groups, and virtual groups. For all measures, beneficiaries will be assigned a rank between 1 and 616 based on the order in which they are populated into each measure sample.

For some measures and for some exclusions, CMS has applied exclusion criteria during the sampling process. However, exclusions are not always applied during sampling, because sometimes, it is not possible to do with claims data. If an organization is unable to report data on a beneficiary at the time of abstraction, the organization must indicate a reason the data cannot be reported. The organization must not skip a beneficiary without providing a valid reason, which is defined as an exclusion in the CMS Web Interface measure specifications. The acceptable reasons will be available for selection within the CMS Web Interface as well.

Data Submission for Promoting Interoperability and Improvement Activities Performance Categories

During the CY 2022 and 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years, eligible clinicians and groups can submit Promoting Interoperability and improvement activities data through direct, log in and upload, or log in and attest submission types.

Based on data from the CY 2019 performance period/2021 MIPS payment year and CY 2020 performance period/2022 MIPS payment year eligibility data, we estimate that 40,172 individual MIPS eligible clinicians and 11,475 groups will submit Promoting Interoperability data for the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year. We estimate that 40,172 individual MIPS eligible clinicians, 11,475 groups, and 20 subgroups will submit Promoting Interoperability data for the CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year. These estimates reflect that under the policies finalized in CY 2017 and CY 2018 Quality Payment Program final rules and the CY 2019, CY 2020, and CY 2021 PFS final rules, certain MIPS eligible clinicians will be eligible for automatic reweighting of the Promoting Interoperability performance category to zero percent, including MIPS eligible clinicians that are hospital-based, ambulatory surgical center-based, non-patient facing clinicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinician nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, qualified speech-language pathologists or qualified audiologist, clinical psychologists, and registered dietitians or nutrition professionals (81 FR 77238 through 77245, 82 FR 53680 through 53687, 83 FR 59819 through 59820, 84 FR 63003 through 63006, and 85 FR 84894 through 84895, respectively). In the CY 2022 PFS final rule, we are finalizing to apply the automatic reweighting of the Promoting Interoperability performance category to clinical social workers. These estimates also account for the automatic reweighting policies for clinicians who are in small practices, as finalized in the CY 2022 PFS final rule.

Additionally, the Promoting Interoperability performance category would be automatically reweighted for eligible clinicians who meet the criteria for certain special status designations such as hospital-based, non-patient facing, etc. In the CY 2020 PFS final rule, we revised the definition of a hospital-based MIPS eligible clinician under § 414.1305 to include groups and virtual groups. We finalized that, beginning with the CY 2020 performance period/2022 MIPS payment year, a hospital-based MIPS eligible clinician under § 414.1305 means an individual MIPS eligible clinician who furnishes 75 percent or more of his or her covered professional services in an inpatient hospital, on-campus outpatient hospital, off campus outpatient hospital, or emergency room setting based on claims for the MIPS determination period, and a group or virtual group provided that more than 75 percent of the NPIs billing under the group's TIN or virtual group's TINs, as applicable, meet the definition of a hospital-based individual MIPS eligible clinician during the MIPS determination period. We also specified that for the Promoting Interoperability performance category to be reweighted for a MIPS eligible clinician who elects to participate in MIPS as part of a group or virtual group, all of the MIPS eligible clinicians in the group or virtual group must qualify for reweighting, or the group or virtual group must meet the finalized revised definition of a hospital-based MIPS eligible clinician or the definition of a non-patient facing MIPS eligible clinician as defined in § 414.1305.

As discussed in Supporting Statement A, a variety of organizations will submit Promoting Interoperability data on behalf of clinicians. Clinicians not participating in a MIPS APM may submit data as individuals or as part of a group. In the CY 2017 Quality Payment Program final rule (81 FR 77258 through 77260, 77262 through 77264) and CY 2019 PFS final rule (83 FR 59822-59823), we established that eligible clinicians in MIPS APMs (including the Shared Savings Program) may report for the Promoting Interoperability performance category as an APM Entity group, individuals, or a group.

As discussed in Supporting Statement A, we estimate 63,845 clinicians will submit improvement activities as individuals, and an estimated 17,717 groups and virtual groups will submit improvement activities on behalf of clinicians during the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year. For the CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year, we estimate 63,845 individual clinicians, 17,717 groups and virtual groups, and 20 subgroups will submit improvement activities on behalf of clinicians.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

- a. Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,**
- b. Estimation procedure,**
- c. Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,**
- d. Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and**
- e. Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

There are 26 information collections in the 2022 PRA package. Only 1 of the 26 information collections in this information collection request involves sampling conducted by CMS. This information collection is for the quality data submission using the CMS Web Interface and is described below. As a result of the finalized policy in the CY 2022 PFS final rule to sunset the CMS Web Interface measures as a quality performance category collection type/submission type beginning with the CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year, we will no longer perform sampling for any information collections included in this PRA package at that time. Table 1 (above) provides information regarding the performance period, sampling, and completeness criteria for all but one of the data submission mechanisms for MIPS eligible clinicians and groups to submit quality measures data for the CY 2022 and 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years. The requirements for the other quality data submission mechanism, CAHPS for MIPS survey, are discussed in a separate information collection request submitted under OMB control number 0938-1222. We do not anticipate using sampling or statistical estimation in the remaining information collections.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield 'reliable' data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Quality Performance Category Data Submission

We expect additional experience with submissions under MIPS to clarify optimal data completeness thresholds and submission criteria for use in future performance periods. We will continually evaluate our policies and notify the public through future notice and comment rulemaking if we make substantive changes. As we evaluate our policies, we plan to continue a dialogue with stakeholders to discuss opportunities for program efficiency and flexibility.

We are finalizing to sunset the CMS Web Interface measures as a quality performance category collection type/submission type beginning with the CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year. Groups and virtual groups would have the option to adopt similar eCQM or MIPS CQM measures in MIPS, select similar measures in an MVP, or be able to select their own measures to report, would be reporting data on at least 6 measures, and data completeness

threshold would be 80 percent for each measure. This would result in a reduction in program requirements compared to the previously required reporting for all 10 CMS Web Interface measures. In addition, the 10 CMS Web Interface measures that are required for reporting under the CY 2021 performance period/2023 MIPS payment year have an eCQM and MIPS CQM equivalent measure and for the CY 2022 performance period/2024 MIPS payment year, there are 10 eCQMs and 9 CQMs that are equivalent to the 10 CMS Web Interface measures. We believe that groups and virtual groups would be able to identify at least 6 equivalent eCQMs or MIPS CQMs (or a combination), or groups would also be able to identify 4 equivalent measures in an MVP that capture the same type of data collected for the measures used in the CMS Web Interface.

We believe that by continuing to provide virtual group participation as an option we will experience continued improvement in response rates due to the ability to better pool resources from participating as part of a virtual group, allowing for reporting on 6 quality measures.

Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Data Submission

The revised scoring methodology finalized in the CY 2019 PFS final rule (83 FR 59791) has provided a simpler, more flexible, less burdensome structure, allowing MIPS eligible clinicians to put their focus back on patients. This scoring methodology encourages MIPS eligible clinicians to push themselves on measures that are most applicable to how they deliver care to patients, instead of focusing on measures that may not be as applicable to them. We believe the increased flexibility to MIPS eligible clinicians that enables them to focus more on patient care and health data exchange through interoperability will continue to help to maximize response rates for the Promoting Interoperability performance category.

In the CY 2022 PFS final rule, we are finalizing an additional requirement that eligible clinicians must attest to conducting an annual assessment of the High Priority Guides of the SAFER Guides beginning January 1, 2022. Clinicians will complete this attestation by checking a box when they submit their Promoting Interoperability performance category data.

In the CY 2020 PFS final rule, we required QCDRs and qualified registries to be able to submit data for each of the quality, improvement activities, and Promoting Interoperability performance categories with the stipulation that based on the amendment to § 414.1400(a)(2)(iii) a third party could be excepted from this requirement if its MIPS eligible clinicians, groups or virtual groups fall under the reweighting policies at § 414.1380(c)(2)(i)(A)(4) or (5) or § 414.1380(c)(2)(i)(C)(1) through (7) or § 414.1380(c)(2)(i)(C)(9)). As a result, MIPS reporting for clinicians who utilized qualified registries or QCDR that have not previously offered the ability to report performance categories other than quality will be able to report MIPS data in a more streamlined and less burdensome manner.

Improvement Activities Performance Category Data Submission

User experiences from the 2019 performance period/2021 MIPS payment year reflect that the majority of users submit improvement activities data as part of the login and upload or direct submission types which allow data for multiple performance categories (i.e., quality and Promoting Interoperability) to be submitted at once. This results in less additional required time to submit improvement activities data which consists of manually attesting that certain activities were performed. In addition, the same improvement activity may be reported across multiple performance periods so many MIPS eligible clinicians may submit the same information for the CY 2022 and 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years as they did for previous MIPS performance periods/MIPS payment years. There is also financial incentive to submit improvement activities data, as clinicians would not receive credit in their MIPS final score otherwise. We believe a less burdensome user experience combined with the financial incentives for submitting improvement activities data will continue to improve response rates in the CY 2022 and CY 2023 performance periods/2024 and 2025 MIPS payment years.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility. Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of tests may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.

We are refining our procedures, methods and testing over time to be more efficient. We do not have any additional testing to describe in this section, including no additional tests that call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents.

As stated above, we expect that additional experience with MIPS will clarify optimal reporting thresholds and submission criteria for use in future performance periods across the quality, Promoting Interoperability, and improvement activities performance categories. We will continually evaluate our policies based on our analysis of MIPS and other data. For group submission through the CMS Web Interface, we note that the methodology was derived from commercially available methods used to compute quality measures in the commercial and Medicare managed care environments and was previously used under the PQRS GPRO Web Interface.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

We do not anticipate any additional statistical reporting on data other than that presented here for the quality or Promoting Interoperability and improvement activities performance categories.

Quality, Promoting Interoperability, and Improvement Activities Performance Category Data

We anticipate that a contractor will analyze information collected from individual MIPS eligible clinicians and groups submitting data to the quality, Promoting Interoperability and improvement activities performance categories.

CMS Web Interface Quality Performance Category Submission

As noted above, we expect that the statistical methods for the CMS Web Interface data submission option will be very similar to those developed for the GPRO Web Interface data submission option. The methods were adopted from the PGP demonstration; the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and RTI International were consulted on the development of the sampling methodology. A contractor will administer the sampling methodology for the CMS Web Interface.