MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Guide

2023 Final Document versus 2024 Final Document

Burden impact: The changes in this guide don't reflect policies in the CY 2025 Physician Fee Scheduled (PFS) proposed rule for the Quality Payment Program. There is no impact to burden as a result of the changes reflected in this crosswalk.

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Change #1:

Location:

> 2023 – Page 1
>
> 2024 – Page 1

Reason for Change:

> Alignment with current program year.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Title**: *2023* MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Guide

2024 Final Document text:

> **Title**: *2024* MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Guide

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Change #2:

Location:

> 2023 – Page 6
>
> 2024 – Page 6

Reason for Change:

> Clarified what entities can submit Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception applications.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Section:** MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview
>
> **Content:** Who
> *Some clinicians, groups and virtual groups automatically qualify for reweighting of the Promoting Interoperability performance category.*

2024 Final Document text:

> **Section:** MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview
>
> **Content:** Who
> - *APM Entities can't submit an application at the APM Entity level.*

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Change #3:

Location:

2023 – Page 6

2024 – Page 6

Reason for Change:

Updated to account for program changes.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview

Content: Why

- You have decertified electronic health record (EHR) technology
- You lack control over the availability of certified EHR technology (CEHRT)
    - Lacking *2015 Edition* CEHRT doesn't qualify as a reason to submit an exception application

2024 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview

Content: Why

- You have decertified electronic health record (EHR) technology *(decertified under the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's (ONC) Health IT Certification Program).*
- You lack control over the availability of certified EHR technology (CEHRT).
    - *Simply* lacking CEHRT *functionality that meets ONC's certification criteria in 45 CFR 170.315* doesn't qualify as a reason to submit an exception application.

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Change #4:

Location:

2023 – Page 6

2024 – Page 6

Reason for Change:

Updated dates for new performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview

Content: When

The Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception application will close at 8 p.m. ET on *January 2, 2024*.

2024 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application Overview

Content: When

The Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception application will close at 8 p.m. ET on *December 31, 2024.*

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Change #5:

Location:

2023 – Page 8

2024 – Page 8

Reason for Change:

Clarify group levels allowed to complete a Promoting Interoperability Performance Hardship application.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information

Content: You can still submit data for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category.

- If your circumstances change and you're able to collect and submit your Promoting Interoperability data, we'll disregard your Hardship Exception application and you'll be scored in this performance category.
- You'll also be scored in this performance category if you attest to any data, such as selecting performance period dates or responding to attestation statements, during the submission period.
- *Small practices qualify for automatic reweighting of the Promoting Interoperability performance category.*

Reminder: Small practices qualify for automatic reweighting.

2024 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information

Content: *Did You Know? Subgroups can't submit a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception at the subgroup level but will inherit any reweighting approved for their affiliated group.*

You can still submit data for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category.

- If your circumstances change and you're able to collect and submit your Promoting Interoperability data, we'll disregard your Hardship Exception application and you'll be scored in this performance category.
- You'll also be scored in this performance category if you attest to any data, such as selecting performance period dates or responding to attestation statements, during the submission period.

Reminder: Small practices qualify for automatic reweighting *of the Promoting Interoperability performance category.*

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Change #6:

Location:

> 2023 – Page 9
> 2024 – Page 9

Reason for Change:

> Updated title of linked document to align with current performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information
>
> **Content**: You aren't required to submit documentation with your application.
>
> - However, clinicians, groups, and virtual groups should retain documentation of their circumstances supporting their application for their own records in the event they're selected by CMS for data validation or audit. See our *2023* MIPS Data Validation Criteria (ZIP) for details on the data validation process.

2024 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information
>
> **Content**: You aren't required to submit documentation with your application. However, clinicians, groups, and virtual groups should retain documentation of their circumstances supporting their application for their own records in the event they're selected by CMS for data validation or audit. See our *2024* MIPS Data Validation Criteria (ZIP, *2MB*) for details on the data validation process.

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Change #7

Location:

> 2023 – Page 9
> 2024 – Page 9

Reason for Change:

> Updated to account for new policy and program dates.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information
>
> **Content**: You may still be able to report if your EHR product is decertified during the *2023* performance year.

2024 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information
>
> **Content**: You may still be able to report if your EHR product is decertified *under ONC's Health IT Certification Program* during the *2024* performance year.

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Change #8:

Location:

> 2023 – Page 11
>
> 2024 – Page 11

Reason for Change:

> Clarify group level to complete a Promoting Interoperability Performance Hardship application.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information
>
> **Content**: If you're participating in MIPS at the APM Entity level (either reporting traditional MIPS or the APP), you would complete the application as an individual or group.
>
> - If approved, the clinician will receive the APM Entity's score, but will be excluded from the calculation when we create an average Promoting Interoperability score for the APM Entity.
>
> APM Entities reporting the APP or traditional MIPS can't submit a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception application on behalf of the entire Entity.
>
> - *When participating in MIPS as an APM Entity, the Promoting Interoperability performance category is still reported at the individual or group level.*
>
> A MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception doesn't exempt you from reporting on any CEHRT activities required for participation in your APM.

2024 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Information
>
> **Content:** If you're participating in MIPS at the APM Entity level (either reporting traditional MIPS or the APP), you *can* complete the application as an individual or group.
>
> - If approved, the *MIPS eligible* clinician will receive the APM Entity's score, but will be excluded from the calculation when we create an average Promoting Interoperability score for the APM Entity.
>
> APM Entities reporting the APP or traditional MIPS can't submit a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception application on behalf of the entire *APM* Entity.
>
> - MIPS eligible clinicians in the APM Entity would need to submit the MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception application at the individual or group level, as appropriate to their circumstances.
>
> A MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category hardship exception doesn't exempt you from reporting on any CEHRT activities *as may be* required *by* your APM. *Reminder: The Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception application isn't available to APM Entities.*

Change #9:

Location:

> 2023 – Page 16
>
> 2024 – Page 16

Reason for Change:

> Updated dates for new performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps:
>
> **Content**: You can create and submit a new exception request until 8 p.m. ET on *January 2, 2024.*

2024 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps
>
> **Content**: You can create and submit a new exception request until 8 p.m. ET on *December 31, 2024.*

Change #10:

Location:

> 2023 – Page 22
>
> 2024 – Page 22

Reason for Change:

> Updated title of linked document to align with current performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps:
>
> **Content**: Note: You don't need to submit supporting documentation with your application. However, you should retain documentation of the circumstances supporting your application for your own records in case you are selected by CMS for data validation or an audit. See our *2023* MIPS Data Validation Criteria for details on the data validation process.

2024 Final Document text:

> **Section**: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps:
>
> **Content**: Note: You don't need to submit supporting documentation with your application. However, you should retain documentation of the circumstances supporting your application for your own records in case you are selected by CMS for data validation or an audit. See our *2024* MIPS Data Validation Criteria for details on the data validation process.

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Change #11:

Location:

2023 – Page 27

2024 – Page 27

Reason for Change:

Updated to account for new policy.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps:

Content: Enter the date that your EHR was decertified and your ONC-ACB Certification ID. Then, review the attestation statement and select "I attest."

2024 Final Document text:

Section: MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception: Application Steps:

Content: Enter the date that your EHR was decertified *(under ONC's Health IT Certification Program)* and your ONC-ACB Certification ID. Then, review the attestation statement and select "I attest."

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Change #12:

Location:

2023 – Page 34

2024 – Page 34

Reason for Change:

Updated information to align with program changes.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: Appendices

Content: You have one of these Special Statuses:
- Small Practice;
- Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)-based;
- Hospital-based; or
- Non-patient facing

You are one of these clinician types:
- *Clinical social worker*
- *Physical therapist*
- *Occupational therapist*
- *Qualified speech-language pathologist*
- *Qualified audiologist*
- *Clinical psychologist*
- *Registered dietitian or nutrition professional*

2024 Final Document text:

Section: Appendices

Content: You*'re the following clinician type or* have one of these Special Statuses:
- *Clinical Social Worker*
- Small Practice;

- Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)-based;
- Hospital-based; or
- Non-patient facing

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Change #13:

Location:

2023 – Page 35

2024 – Page 35

Reason for Change:

Updated title and performance year references to align with current performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: Appendices

Content: Appendix B. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the *2023* Performance Year: Individual Clinicians, Groups and Virtual Groups
The table below illustrates the *2023* performance category weights and reweighting policies that CMS will apply to clinicians, groups, and virtual groups reporting via traditional MIPS.
Important Reminders:
- Individual Clinicians, Groups, Virtual Groups: If fewer than 2 performance categories can be scored (meaning 1 performance category is weighted at 100%, or all performance categories are weighted at 0%), the clinician, group, or virtual group will receive a final score equal to the performance threshold and the MIPS eligible clinicians will receive a neutral payment adjustment in the *2025* payment year.

2024 Final Document text:

Section: Appendi*ces*

Content: Appendix B. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS *and MVPs* Finalized for the *2024* Performance Year: Individual Clinicians, Groups, and Virtual Groups

The table below illustrates the *2024* performance category weights and reweighting policies that CMS will apply to clinicians, groups, and virtual groups reporting via traditional MIPS *or MVPs.*

Important Reminders:
- Individual Clinicians, Groups, Virtual Groups: If fewer than 2 performance categories can be scored (meaning 1 performance category is weighted at 100%, or all performance categories are weighted at 0%), the clinician, group, or virtual group will receive a final score equal to the performance threshold and the MIPS eligible clinicians will receive a neutral payment adjustment in the *2026* payment year.

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Change #14:

Location:

>2023 – Page 36 (repeated on page 37)

>2024 – Page 36 (repeated on page 37)

Reason for Change:

>Updated title and performance year references to align with current performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

>**Section**: Appendices

>**Content**: MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the *2023* Performance Year: Individual Clinicians, Groups and Virtual Groups (Continued)

2024 Final Document text:

>**Section**: Appendices

>**Content**: MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS *and MVPs* Finalized for the *2024* Performance Year: Individual Clinicians, Groups and Virtual Groups (Continued)

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Change #15:

Location:

>2023 – Page 38

>2024 – Page 38

Reason for Change:

>Updated title and performance year references to align with current performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

>**Section**: Appendices

>**Content**: Appendix C. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the *2023* Performance Year: Small Practice
>The table below illustrates the *2023* performance category weights and reweighting policies that CMS will apply to small practices.

2024 Final Document text:

>**Section**: Appendices

>**Content**: Appendix C. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the *2024* Performance Year: Small Practices

>The table below illustrates the *2024* performance category weights and reweighting policies that CMS will apply to small practices.

Change #16:

Location:

2023 – Page 39

2024 – Page 39

Reason for Change:

Updated title performance year reference to align with current performance year.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: Appendices

Content: Appendix C. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the *2023* Performance Year: Small Practice

2024 Final Document text:

Section: Appendices

Content: Appendix C. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies Under Traditional MIPS Finalized for the *2024* Performance Year: Small Practices

Change #17:

Location:

2023 – Page 39 (repeated on page 40)

2024 – Page 39 (repeated on page 40)

Reason for Change:

Added clarifying language on payment adjustments.

2023 Final Document text:

Section: Appendices

Content: Note: If you have multiple performance categories reweighted to 0% so that a single performance category is weighted at 100% of your final score, you'll receive a score equal to the performance threshold regardless of any data submitted *or not submitted. See next slide for additional information.*

2024 Final Document text:

Section: Appendices

Content: Note: If you have multiple performance categories reweighted to 0% so that a single performance category is weighted at 100% of your final score, you'll receive a score equal to the performance threshold regardless of any data submitted *and you'll receive a neutral payment adjustment.*

Change #18:

Location:

> 2023 – Page 40
>
> 2024 – Page 40

Reason for Change:

> Updated performance year references and clarified performance category weight for APP.

2023 Final Document text:

> **Section**: Appendices
>
> **Content**: Appendix D. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies for APM Entities and the APP Finalized for the *2023* Performance Year
> The table below illustrates the *2023* performance category weights and reweighting policies that apply to individual clinicians, groups and APM Entities reporting the APP.
> Reminders:
>
> - *Cost is not scored under the APP.*
> - There are no reporting requirements for the improvement activities performance category under the APP for the *2023* performance year. Participants reporting via the APP will automatically receive full credit for the improvement activities performance category for the *2023* performance year.

2024 Final Document text:

> **Section**: Appendices
>
> **Content**: Appendix D. MIPS Performance Category Weight Redistribution Policies for APM Entities and the APP Finalized for the *2024* Performance Year
>
> The table below illustrates the *2024* performance category weights and reweighting policies that apply to individual clinicians, groups, and APM Entities reporting *via* the APP.
>
> Reminders:
>
> - *The cost performance category weight is zero percent for clinicians scored through the APP.*
> - There are no reporting requirements for the improvement activities performance category under the APP for the *2024* performance year. Participants reporting via the APP will automatically receive full credit for the improvement activities performance category for the *2024* performance year.