

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
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Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



**CENTER FOR MEDICARE**

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**DATE:** January 28, 2021

**TO:** All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Cost Plans, PACE Organizations, and Demonstrations

**FROM:** Jennifer R. Shapiro, Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group

**SUBJECT:** Release of 2021 MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has uploaded to the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Payment Adjustment Data File for payment year 2021. Medicare Advantage organizations (MAOs) can use the information in the file to determine the amount of the MIPS payment adjustment that applies to their payments for Medicare Part B covered professional services furnished by out-of-network MIPS eligible clinicians.

For guidance on when and how the MIPS payment adjustments apply to MAOs' payments to out-of-network MIPS eligible clinicians, please see the July 10, 2020 memorandum entitled "Application of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Payment Adjustment to Medicare Advantage Out-of-Network Payments - Update." In that memorandum, we explained that, effective January 1, 2021, MAOs are expected pay the full amount owed to non-contract MIPS eligible clinicians, including any positive MIPS adjustments, within 30 days of the date of receipt of a clean claim. § 422.520(a)(1). Under § 422.500, a claim is not a clean claim – and therefore not subject to the prompt pay requirement at § 422.520(a)(1) – if there is a "particular circumstance requiring special treatment that prevents timely payment." Because MA organizations did not have all of the information needed to make timely payments to out-of-network MIPS eligible clinicians prior to our release of the 2021 MIPS payment adjustment data file, for purposes of evaluating MAOs' compliance with the prompt pay requirement, we will consider the release date of this memorandum to be the first day of the 30-day prompt payment window for any out-of-network claims received prior to this date that would otherwise have met the definition of a clean claim at § 422.500.

**File Access**

The 2021 MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File has been added to the "Incentive Payments" section of the HPMS Data Extract Facility (HPMS Home > Data Extract Facility > Incentive Payments). After navigating to the "Incentive Payments" section, a user may download the file by

selecting “MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File” under Step One, “2021” under Step Two, and “Download” under Step Three.

Due to the sensitivity of some of the information contained in the file, only the MAO’s Medicare Compliance Officer will be able to access and download it. The Medicare Compliance Officer must be a registered HPMS user in order to obtain the file.

### **Identifying the Applicable MIPS Adjustment Percentage**

The MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File consists of four data elements:

- National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- MIPS adjustment percentage
- A marker (“Percentage Indicator”) indicating that the MIPS Adjustment Percentage is positive (“P”) or negative (“N”)

For more detailed information on the file layout, see Appendix A.

An MAO can identify the applicable MIPS adjustment percentage for a MIPS eligible clinician by matching the clinician’s billing TIN/NPI combination to a TIN/NPI combination in the MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File. If an exact match for the billing TIN/NPI combination does not appear in the data file, the MAO should determine whether the NPI appears in combination with another TIN and, if so, apply the MIPS adjustment percentage associated with that TIN/NPI combination. If the NPI appears in more than one TIN/NPI combination in the data file, the MAO should apply the MIPS adjustment percentage for the TIN/NPI combination that results in the greatest total payment amount.

### **Additional Information**

If you encounter technical difficulties when downloading the MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File from HPMS, you may contact the HPMS Help Desk at [hpms@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hpms@cms.hhs.gov) or 1-800-220-2028.

If the “Incentive Payments” hyperlink does not appear in the HPMS Data Extract Facility, you must send a request for additional access to [hpms\\_access@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hpms_access@cms.hhs.gov). Please note that information in the MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File is considered sensitive and may require additional levels of approval.

If you have questions about the information in this HPMS notice, please contact the MA Out of Network Payment mailbox at [MA-OON-Payment@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MA-OON-Payment@cms.hhs.gov).

## Appendix A

### MIPS Payment Adjustment Data File Layout

File Position	Format	Data Element	Comment
1 - 10	X(10)	NPI	
11 - 19	X(9)	TIN	
20 - 24	9(3)V99	MIPS Adjustment Percentage	<p>This field shows the MIPS adjustment percentage. Additional adjustments for exceptional performance, where applicable, are included in the adjustment percentage.</p> <p>The percentage includes two numbers after the decimal place. For example, "00975" indicates an adjustment percentage of 9.75%.</p>
25	X(1)	Percentage Indicator	<p>This field will have a value of "P" or "N".</p> <p>"P" indicates that the MIPS adjustment percentage is positive. "N" indicates the MIPS adjustment percentage is negative.</p>