



March 29, 2019

NEWSLETTER

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MIPS (Merit-based Incentive Payment System)

News Flash:

The submission windows for performance data for 2018 MIPS closes on April 2, 2019. If you have questions about submitting, contact us TODAY!

The final rule for 2019 MIPS brought a number of changes. [Here is a quick summary](#) to help you review what you need to know. Our monthly education sessions, MIPS Tips, provide valuable information on a variety of topics. Here are our [upcoming events](#) and [recordings/slide decks](#) from recent events. One of the new items for 2019 is facility-based scoring. [Read this blog to learn more.](#)

Recent Information

- MIPS Action Plan Steps:
 - [Your MIPS Action Plan: Step 1 - Am I Included in MIPS?](#)
 - [Your MIPS Action Plan: Step 2 - Factors to Determine Reporting as a Group or as an Individual](#)
 - [Your MIPS Action Plan: Step 3 - A Look at Your EHR!](#)
 - [Your MIPS Action Plan: Step 4 - Selecting a Reporting Period](#)
 - [Your MIPS Action Plan: Step 5 - Selecting a Submission Method](#)
- MIPS Blogs:
 - [Facility-based Scoring for Providers Who Perform Their Services in a Hospital](#)

[Subscribe to the MIPS blog](#) to get just-in-time information. Have other questions? Please email us at qualitypaymenthelp@mpghf.org. We are here to help you be successful with the Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP)!

MU (Meaningful Use)

News Flash:

The eligible hospital and critical access hospital (CAH) Promoting Interoperability (PI) attestation submission period is now closed for reporting year 2018. If your eligible hospital or CAH needs to submit a hardship application, the submission deadlines are below. More information can also be found [here](#).

- 2018 Eligible Hospital Hardship Application - submission deadline is **July 1, 2019**
- 2018 CAH Hardship Application - submission deadline is **November 30, 2019**

Some state Medicaid PI attestation submission periods are still open for 2018 reporting. Check with your state Medicaid office to verify their specific criteria and deadlines.

Once your submission is complete and audit documentation is compiled for the 2018 reporting period, start reviewing the 2019 requirements and obtain guides from your vendors for best practices to achieve the PI requirements.

Other Resource Links

- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) 2019 Hospital Requirements](#)
- [CMS 2019 Eligible Professionals \(EP\) Medicaid Requirements](#)
- [HTS Quality Performance and Reporting Resources](#)
- [Read all previous PI posts](#)
- [Mountain-Pacific Medicare Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) Resources](#)
- [CMS PI](#)
- [MU 2018 program requirement details available now](#)

Blog Posts

- [Medicare and Medicaid Attestation Submission Deadlines for 2018 Reporting](#)

[Subscribe to the MU blog](#) to get just-in-time information. If you have any questions, please [contact Erin Aklestad](#).

HIPAA PASS
Privacy and Security

News Flash:

2018 All-Time Record Year for HIPAA Enforcement

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services concluded an all-time record year in Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) enforcement activity. In 2018, OCR settled 10 cases and was granted summary judgment in a case before an administrative law judge, together totaling \$28.7 million from enforcement actions. This total surpassed the previous record of \$23.5 million from 2016 by 22 percent. In addition, OCR also achieved the single largest individual HIPAA settlement in history of \$16 million with Anthem, Inc., representing a nearly three-fold increase over the previous record settlement of \$5.5 million in 2016.

[Learn more here.](#)

Other Resource Links

Spend more time focusing on what's important - your patients, providers and staff. Let Mountain-Pacific help you with your HIPAA Promoting Interoperability Privacy and Security needs, so you can focus on what matters most. [Read more here.](#)

Here are [more resources](#) regarding HIPAA PASS Privacy and Security. If you have any questions, please [contact Susan Clarke](#).

Hospitals

News Flash:

Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR)-Eligible Hospitals to Submit Q4 2018 HCAHPS Survey Data by April 3, 2019

The submission deadline for the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) patient perspectives on care survey data for fourth quarter (4Q) 2018 discharges (October 1-December 31, 2018) is April 3, 2019.

[Read more...](#)

If you have any questions, please [contact Ericka Alm](#).

Immunizations

News Flash:

An important part of what you do is making sure vaccines reach all your patients who need them. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) recommends health care professionals

- **ASSESS** immunization status at every visit;
- strongly **RECOMMEND** needed vaccinations;
- **ADMINISTER** vaccinations or **REFER** to an immunization provider;
- **DOCUMENT** vaccinations.

[Learn more here.](#)

Resources

- [Learn more about vaccine apps](#) and how they can help you
- Check the status of the flu activity in your state by using [this link](#)
- Order Mountain-Pacific's latest [immunization and FluFIT tools and resources here!](#)
- Blog post: [Tips to Increase Vaccinations](#)
- Blog Post: [Vaccines in Practice: Influenza \(Flu\)](#)
- Blog Post: [Fact or Fiction: You Can Get the Flu from the Flu Shot](#)
- Blog Post: [Got Your Flu Shot Yet? It's Not Too Late!](#)
- Blog Post: [Fall, Flu and You!](#)
- [Effectiveness and Reach of the FluFIT Program in an Integrated Health Care System: a Multisite Randomized Trial](#)
- [The Effectiveness of the FLU-FOBT Program in Primary Care: A Randomized Trial](#)
- Mountain-Pacific's TV program [Healthy Living for Life - Immunizations Myth Busters: The Truth about Vaccines](#)

If you have any questions, please [contact Amber Rogers](#).

Readmissions

News Flash:

"**Springing forward**" can be harder for seniors. An extra cup of coffee and a few days to adjust is enough to get most people back on their feet after a time

change. The same cannot be said for elderly individuals, or those suffering from chronic health conditions.

The biggest problem that older individuals have with daylight saving time is loss of sleep. Small changes in sleep patterns can have significant consequences for senior health. While no research has been conducted on the exact effects of daylight saving on senior health, a sleep-deprived senior is more likely to make mistakes regarding their medication management and may have an increased risk of falling.

Daylight saving can even have an impact in the hospital setting. In a cohort study of 207 medical inpatients, disturbances in sleep, mobility, nutrition and mood were common, and most participants reported experiencing a disturbance in multiple domains. These disturbances were associated with greater risk of readmission or emergency department visit.

You can read the entire study at [here](#).

For more information with this project, please [contact Kevin Franke](#).

ADEs (Adverse Drug Events)

News Flash:

Blood Pressure Medication Recalls

If you are tuned into health care news, the chance is high you heard about the current recall of several popular blood pressure medications, including losartan, valsartan, irbesartan and some combination products containing these medications. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) recalled several lots of these medications, all known as angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs), due to the presence of impurities that are possible carcinogens (cancer-causing agents). The serious nature of the detected impurities caught the attention of mainstream media, and patients have questions.

[Here is what we know so far.](#)

Pathways to Safer Opioid Use

Prescription-related opioid deaths continue to be a critical public health issue in the United States. To help the health care community address this, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) developed the Pathways to Safer Opioid Use training. [This blog](#) explains more about how this training can help pharmacists save lives.

Resources

- [What Mountain-Pacific is doing to help decrease ADEs](#)
- [ADEs tools and resources](#)
- National Help Line:
 - Phone number: 1-800-622-4357
 - [Website](#)

If you have any questions, please [contact Stevi Sy](#).

Antibiotic Stewardship

News Flash:

Antibiotic stewardship belongs to the larger topic of infection prevention, control and management. Part of protecting our valuable antibiotics is not exposing them unnecessarily to microorganisms that may build up resistance to them. Effective practices of infection control prevent exposures to pathogenic microorganisms.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have just released an online training program to prepare infection control personnel in the basics of an effective infection control program and the skills to work as a qualified infection prevention professional. The on-demand learning experience is cost-free. Certified continuing education units can be earned.

[This link](#) will take you to the training program.

Resources

- [Quality Improvement Organization \(QIO\) program resources](#)
- [Learn more](#)
- [Tools and resources](#)

If you have any questions, please [contact Lori Chikoyak](#).

Additional News and Resources

Mountain-Pacific Resources:

- [Tools and Resources](#)
- [News](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Healthy Living for Life TV Show](#)

State Calendars:

- [Montana](#)
 - [Wyoming](#)
 - [Alaska](#)
 - [Hawaii](#)
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About Mountain-Pacific
Quality Health



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