

Maryland's Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP)

What is EQIP?

- EQIP is a **voluntary program** that will provide **incentive payments to physicians** specializing in gastroenterology, orthopedics, and cardiology 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 relevant set of services delivered to a related to a medical condition, procedure or health care event during a defined time period.

Benefits for Maryland Physicians

Physician ownership of performance

Policy tailored to independent and employ physician practice

Upside-only risk with dissavings accountability

EQIP will provide a lump-sum bonus to normal Medicare Payment

Alignment with CareFirst's episode program

Can apply to both Medicare and Commercially insured patients

Advanced Alternative Payment Model Participation Opportunity

*MIPS reporting Exemption
Bonus from Medicare payment*

What is my Role?



"Care Partner"
(A specialty physician)

- **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)

How Do I Participate?



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

- 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***



Enroll in EQIP



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

What Episodes Can I Select as an EQIP Entity?

Allergy

Allergic Rhinitis, Asthma

Cardiology

Pacemaker / Defibrillator, Acute Myocardial Infarction, CABG &/or Valve Procedures, Coronary Angioplasty

Dermatology

Cellulitis, Decubitus Ulcer, Dermatitis

Gastroenterology

Colonoscopy, Colorectal Resection, Gall Bladder Surgery, Upper GI Endoscopy

Ophthalmology

Cataract Surgery, Glaucoma

Orthopedics

Accidental Falls, Hip Replacement & Hip Revision, Hip/Pelvic Fracture, Knee Arthroscopy, Knee Replacement & Knee Revision, Low Back Pain, Lumbar Laminectomy, Lumbar Spine Fusion, Osteoarthritis, Shoulder Replacement, Musculoskeletal Disorders

Pulmonary / Critical Care

Acute CHF / Pulmonary Edema, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Deep Vein Thrombosis / Pulmonary Embolism, Pneumonia, Sepsis

Urology

Catheter Associated UTIs, Prostatectomy, Transurethral Resection Prostate, UTI

Emergency Department

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



Enrollment Opens July 10th, 2023



Enrollment opportunity will close Friday, September 1, 2023

Performance Year 3 will start January 1, 2024 and run through December 31, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT EQIP@CRISPHEALTH.ORG

or VISIT THE CRISP LEARNING SYSTEM:

<https://www.crisphealth.org/learning-system/eqip/>