Quality Payment Program 2024: An Update

The last few years of Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) were relatively easy; we had bonus points and either the performance threshold was kept low, or practices could be exempt because of the pandemic.

Now, we’ve lost bonus points, the threshold is higher, the exclusions are limited and we have less radiology-specific measures to report on.

The MIPS Measures for Diagnostic Radiology may be insufficient to avoid a penalty, even with a perfect score.

- All benchmarked measures for diagnostic radiology are capped at 7 points.

2024 Diagnostic Radiology Quality Measures

Measure 145
Radiology: Exposure Dose Indices Reported for Procedures Using Fluoroscopy
10 points eligible if benchmarked

Measure 360
Optimizing Patient Exposure to Ionizing Radiation: Count of Potential High-Dose Radiation Imaging Studies: Computed Tomography (CT) and Cardiac Nuclear Medicine Studies
7 points

Measure 364
Optimizing Patient Exposure to Ionizing Radiation: Appropriateness: Follow-up CT Imaging for Incidentally Detected Pulmonary Nodules According to Recommended Guidelines
7 points

Measure 405
Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Abdominal Lesions
7 points

Measure 406
Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules
7 points

Measure 436
Radiation Consideration for Adult CT: Utilization of Dose Lowering Techniques
7 points

Report on 6 Quality Measures, with a perfect score being 60 points
ACR® National Radiology Data Registry (NRDR®) is a CMS-approved Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) for the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for 2024. ACR encourages practices to submit all relevant data to encourage the benchmarking of new measures. The ACR QCDR (NRDR) can help, and ACR is working to provide new measures. Additional QCDR measures for radiology are available in the MSN, LLC QCDR. The NRDR QCDR can report nine of the MSN measures.

For 2024, CMS has approved 10 QCDR measures submitted by ACR, making 52 total measures available to radiologists and radiation oncologists.

- **ACRad 15**: Report Turnaround Time: Radiography
- **ACRad 16**: Report Turnaround Time: Ultrasound (Excluding Breast US)
- **ACRad 17**: Report Turnaround Time: MRI
- **ACRad 18**: Report Turnaround Time: CT
- **ACRad 19**: Report Turnaround Time: PET
- **ACRad 25**: Report Turnaround Time: Mammography
- **ACRad 34**: Multi-Strata Weighted Average for three CT Exam Types (Overall percent of CT exams for which dose length product is at or below the size-specific diagnostic reference level for CT abdomen-pelvis with contrast/single phase scan, CT chest without contrast/single phase scan and CT head/brain)
- **ACRad 36**: Incidental Coronary Artery Calcification Reported on Chest CT
- **ACRad 37**: Interpretation of CT Pulmonary Angiography for Pulmonary Embolism
- **ACRad 41**: Use of Quantitative Criteria for Oncologic FDG PET Imaging

CMS reopened the 2023 MIPS Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances (EUC) hardship application due to the Change Healthcare cyberattack. Clinicians who have not yet submitted their 2023 MIPS data to CMS can submit a hardship exemption request for one or more performance categories.