

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
5% 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?

- EQIP will utilize the **Prometheus Episode Grouper** approach.
- The **first performance year** will include episodes in the following specialty areas:

Cardiology

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

Gastroenterology

Colonoscopy
Colorectal Resection
Gall Bladder Surgery
Upper GI Endoscopy

Orthopedics

Hip Replacement & Hip Revision
Hip/Pelvic Fracture
Knee Arthroscopy
Knee Replacement & Knee Revision
Lumbar Laminectomy
Lumbar Spine Fusion
Shoulder Replacement



Enrollment Opens July 9th, 2021



Enrollment opportunity will close September 1, 2021

Performance will start January 1, 2022 and run through December 31, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT EQIP@CRISPHEALTH.ORG
or VISIT THE HSCRC WEBSITE: <https://hscrc.maryland.gov/Pages/Episode-Quality-Improvement-Program.aspx>