

MIPS Performance Categories

Advancing Care Information (ACI)

This category evaluates whether a clinician is a meaningful user of certified EHR technology (CEHRT). It relies on many of the same measures used under the EHR Incentive Program, although for many of the measures, CMS has reduced performance thresholds. In general, this category makes up 25 percent of your MIPS Final Score, unless you meet one of the following criteria:

- You qualify for one of the following special statuses:
 - Hospital-based: Clinicians who furnish 75 percent or more of their covered professional services in sites of service identified by POS 19 (off-campus outpatient hospital), POS 21 (inpatient hospital), POS 22 (on-campus outpatient hospital), or emergency room (POS 23) setting based on claims for a period prior to the performance period as specified by CMS.
 - Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)-based: Clinicians who furnish 75% or more of their covered professional services in sites of service identified by POS 24 (ASC), based on claims for a prior period as specified by CMS.
 - Non-physician practitioner: Clinicians who are physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, or certified registered nurse anesthetists.
- CMS approves a requested [hardship exemption](#) based on:
 - Insufficient internet connectivity
 - Extreme and uncontrollable circumstances
 - Lack of control over certified EHR technology
 - Small practice status
 - Use of decertified EHR technology

In these cases, the ACI performance category will be reweighted to 0 percent, and CMS will generally increase the weight for the Quality performance category correspondingly.¹

Clinicians opting to report under this category may use 2014 or 2015 (or a combination thereof) certified EHR Technology (CEHRT) for 2018.

ACI measures are divided into “base” score measures and “performance score” measures. Reporting the base measures is the minimum requirement for receiving a score under this category. The base score is “all-or-nothing,” in that all base measures must be satisfied in order to receive any credit under the ACI category. The performance measures are optional and may result in supplemental and incremental credit based on performance. Note that some of the base measures are also eligible for performance credit.

Clinicians can also earn bonus points in the ACI category by:

- Using CEHRT to complete certain activities in the Improvement Activities (IA) performance category. Reporting “yes” to the completion of at least one of the CMS-specified IAs using CEHRT will result in a 10 percentage point bonus in the ACI category.

¹ Note that individual clinicians could lose this special status exemption from ACI if their practice opts to participate in MIPS at the group level.

- Using only 2015 Edition CEHRT to fully report under this category. Attesting to end-to-end use of CEHRT will result in a 10 percentage point bonus.
- Reporting to an additional immunization, public health, or clinical data registry (separate from the registry used to obtain credit for the performance score. This will result in a 5 percentage point bonus.

Additionally, MIPS eligible clinicians who report under this category must also attest to the following Prevention of Information Blocking attestation statements:

- Did not knowingly and willfully take action (such as to disable functionality) to limit or restrict the compatibility or interoperability of CEHRT
- Implemented technologies, standards, policies, practices, and agreements reasonably calculated to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, that the CEHRT, at all relevant times, met specified standards regarding connection, compliance, and implementation.
- Responded in good faith and in a timely manner to requests to retrieve or exchange electronic health information, including from patients, health care providers (as defined by 42 U.S.C. 300jj(3)), and other persons, regardless of the requestor's affiliation or technology vendor.

Specifications for both the base and performance measures are available for download [here](#). Additional information about qualifying for performance and bonus score points under this category is available in this [CMS fact sheet](#).