Applying for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Merit-based Incentive Payment System Program Hardship Exceptions

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Program offers information about Hardship Exceptions at the following Web site: https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/exception-applications.

How to Apply

The Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Application for Performance Year 2019 is now open. **The application window will close on December 31, 2019**.

To apply, make sure to have the following information:

- For an **Individual** application: The clinician's National Provider Identifier (NPI), group name, and group Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- For a **Group** application: Group name and TIN
- For a **Virtual Group** application: VG ID

Hardship Exception applications must be completed online, following the indicated link.

Hardship Exceptions for the Promoting Interoperability Performance Category

Clinicians using the Indian Health Service (IHS) Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) for the 2019 performance period may apply for a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception under the uncontrollable circumstances category (indicating Vendor Issues): https://cmsqualitysupport.service-now.com/exception_application.do.

If the Application is Approved

CMS notes if an application is approved, participating clinicians do not have to report for the requested performance category or categories, and those categories will be re-weighted. This means the Promoting Interoperability Performance Category is re-weighted to zero and the points are moved to the Quality performance category.

Additional information about Quality Payment Programs (QPP) Exceptions can be found on the CMS Web site at: https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/exception-applications.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Susy Postal, IHS Chief Health Informatics Officer, by e-mail at susy.postal@ihs.gov.