

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 Exception and the MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception Application for Performance Year (PY) 2020 is now open. Hardship Exception applications must be completed online, following the indicated link below. **The application window will close on December 31, 2020.**

There are two exception applications available to clinicians in PY 2020:

- The Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception application allows you to request reweighting for any or all performance categories if you encounter an extreme and uncontrollable circumstance or public health emergency, such as COVID-19, that is outside of your control.
- The MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception application allows you to request reweighting specifically for the Promoting Interoperability performance category if you qualify for one of the reasons identified by CMS.

To apply for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception, 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 Exceptions for the Promoting Interoperability Performance Category

Clinicians using the Indian Health Service (IHS) Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) for the 2020 performance period may apply for a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception under the uncontrollable circumstances category (indicating Vendor Issues).

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 reweighted. This means the Promoting Interoperability Performance Category is reweighted to zero and the points are moved to the Quality performance category.

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