

2017 MACRA Final Rule Hits!

November 09, 2016

The Department of Health & Human Services (**HHS**) released its final rule on the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). This act, which will go into effect **January 01, 2017**, reimburses eligible Medicare physicians based on the quality of care they deliver through the government's Quality Payment Program, which replaces the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula for physician reimbursement.

MACRA's flagship program, the one specifically focused on quality data reporting, is the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). It replaces the Value-Based Payment Modifier (VM) program, which allowed for differential Medicare payments based on the quality and cost of care provided. Rehab therapists were never eligible to participate in the VM program. However, rehab therapists (e.g., PTs, OTs, and SLPs) were eligible to participate in PQRS.

CMS indicated that it will allow non-eligible providers to participate in MIPS on a voluntary basis during the 2017 and 2018 reporting years.

For additional resources please click on link below:

<https://qpp.cms.gov/education>