

FAQs on Changes to the Medicare Advantage QIP and CCIP Requirements

New QIP/CCIP Requirements

Q1: Why is CMS changing the QIP and CCIP requirements?

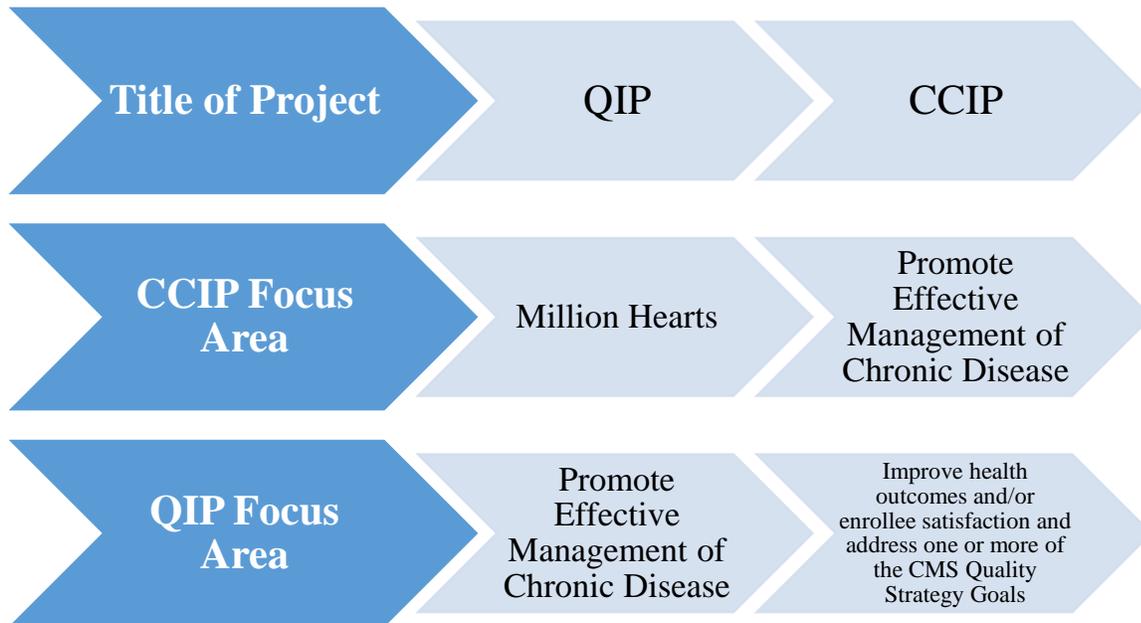
A: CMS currently requires MAOs to conduct two distinct projects: a QIP and a CCIP, which both focus on chronic conditions. CMS is re-designating the current QIP as the new CCIP. This allows MAOs to conduct one succinct project that addresses chronic care. This change will reduce duplication of effort and allow MAOs greater flexibility in their approaches to quality improvement activities.

Q2: If an MAO currently has a QIP in progress, what do they need to do?

A: MAOs must continue their current QIP, Promote Effective Management of Chronic Disease. Note that the QIP will be re-designated as the CCIP.

Q3: If an MAO currently has a CCIP in progress, what do they need to do?

A: MAOs that are currently conducting a CCIP focused on Million Hearts, should bring them to a close by the end of 2017. MAOs should evaluate their results and carry forward any applicable lessons learned and best practices. As noted above, the QIP will be re-designated as the CCIP.



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Q4: What do *new* MAOs have to do for the newly designated CCIP?

A: New MAOs are required to develop Plan Sections for the newly designated CCIP effective January 2018. MAOs do not need to submit their CCIP to CMS for approval. MAOs effective in 2017 must implement those projects in January 2018.

Q5: What do *new* MAOs have to do for the newly designated QIP?

A: New MAOs are required to develop Plan Sections for the newly designated QIP effective January 2018. For the newly designated QIP, MAOs must aim to improve health outcomes and/or enrollee satisfaction and address one or more of the CMS Quality Strategy Goals. MAOs do not need to submit their QIP to CMS for approval. MAOs effective in 2017 must implement those projects in January 2018.

Q6: What is the required project duration for both the newly designated QIP and the newly designated CCIP?

A: Both the newly designated QIP and the newly designated CCIP will be three-year projects.

QIP/CCIP Focus Areas

Q7: Are MAOs required to choose from the list of chronic conditions in current guidance for the newly designated CCIP? Can MAOs select conditions that are not on the list?

A: For the newly designated CCIP, MAOs must address chronically ill populations. CMS will continue to provide a list of chronic conditions; however, MAOs are not required to choose from this list. MAOs may choose other chronic conditions as appropriate to meet the needs of their enrollee population.

Q8: Can MAOs choose more than one chronic condition for their newly designated CCIP?

A: MAOs may choose more than one chronic condition. However, the conditions should be related in some way, and the approaches taken should support more than one condition.

Q9: Will CMS identify a mandatory focus area for the newly designated QIP?

A: For the newly designated QIP, MAOs must aim to improve health outcomes and/or enrollee satisfaction and address one or more of the CMS Quality Strategy Goals.

Q10: Do newly designated QIP and CCIP focus areas/Plan Sections need to be approved by CMS before MAOs can implement them?

A: No, MAOs are not required to submit QIP or CCIP focus areas/Plan Sections for CMS approval. MAOs should choose chronic conditions and focus areas that present an opportunity for improvement and meet the needs of their enrollees. If an MAO would like to consult with CMS on a proposed chronic condition or focus area, they may contact the Part C Policy Mailbox, located at: <https://dpap.lmi.org>.

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New QIP/CCIP Reporting Requirements

Q11: What will MAOs have to report to CMS under this new process?

A: MAOs are no longer required to submit Plan Sections and Annual Updates via HPMS regarding the status of their projects (both QIP and CCIP). MAOs must attest in HPMS that they have ongoing QIPs and CCIPs, and they should keep detailed internal documentation regarding the status of their QIPs and CCIPs. CMS maintains the authority to request information periodically on the status and results of ongoing projects. More information regarding the HPMS attestations is forthcoming.

QIP/CCIP Resources

Q12: When will CMS issue further guidance on the newly designated QIP and CCIP?

A: CMS will issue further guidance in the coming months.

Q13: Will CMS release an updated QIP and CCIP Resource Document?

A: Yes, CMS will update the QIP and CCIP Resource Document to reflect these changes.