



Virtual Group Participation in the Quality Payment Program

March 16, 2017



Feedback Information

- Feedback will be accepted after the presentation portion of today's webinar through the chat box and on the phone line.
 - Use the phone number provided later in the webinar to provide feedback by phone.
- The slides, recording, and transcript from the webinar will be posted on the Quality Payment Program website in the next week or so.
- If you have questions about the Quality Payment Program that are not related to Virtual Groups, please contact: gpp@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292.
- The speakers will answer as many questions as time allows. Any questions not answered on the phone should be directed to the QPP Service Center.



Virtual Groups Overview

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Virtual Groups

- Virtual Groups will be comprised of individual eligible clinicians (solo practitioners) and small group practices that join together to report on MIPS requirements as a collective entity.
- A Virtual Group is a participation option in MIPS that will be available starting in 2018.
- A Virtual Group is not a data submission mechanism.



Virtual Group Statutory Provisions

- Election:
 - Individual eligible clinicians and small group practices (10 or less eligible clinicians reassigning to the same TIN) may join Virtual Groups.
 - A Virtual Group may be based on “appropriate classifications” such as geography or specialty.
- Virtual Groups will be scored on combined performance (for quality and cost).



Virtual Group Statutory Provisions Cont.

Requirements:

- Eligible clinicians and small group practices must elect to participate prior to the performance year and may not be changed during the performance period.
- If a small group practice elects to join a Virtual Group, all small group practice members must be included in the Virtual Group. A small group practice can only be in ONE virtual group.
- A Virtual Group must be comprised of a combination of TINs.
- CMS must provide for formal written agreements between clinicians entering into a Virtual Group.
- Other requirements as the Secretary determines appropriate.



Rulemaking Process

- Currently, we are in the rulemaking process and not able to comment on or address questions relating to policies that are being developed.
- However, as we develop policies pertaining to Virtual Groups, your feedback and recommendations are critical to the rulemaking process.



Rulemaking Process Cont.

In the CY 2017 Quality Payment Program final rule, we sought comment on the following:

1. Establishing minimum standards for members of Virtual Groups;
2. How Virtual Groups could use their data for analytics;
3. Requirements that could facilitate use of Virtual Groups to enhance health outcomes and goals, such as coordination of care; and
4. Use of a group identifier for Virtual Groups.



Phone Line to Provide Feedback

- Please dial **1 (866) 452-7887** to provide feedback in response to the questions on the next few slides.
- If prompted, use passcode: **73305116**
- You can also provide feedback in the chat box.



Feedback from January 27, 2017 Webinar

During our first Virtual Groups webinar, we solicited feedback in five areas:

1. What types of factors would individual eligible clinicians and small group practices take into consideration when forming/joining a Virtual Group?
2. What are potential barriers and challenges that individual eligible clinicians and small group practices would need to address in order to form/join a Virtual Group?
3. What timeframe would Virtual Groups need to form and operationalize the Virtual Group, and be prepared for reporting?
4. What elements would be critical to include in an agreement between members of a Virtual Group?
5. What options or elements could be considered or included in an election process that would enhance user experience?



Feedback on Today's Webinar

- Today's webinar provides another opportunity to provide input on topics related to Virtual Group implementation.
- We would like your input on the following topics:
 - Preparing to form/join a Virtual Group;
 - Types of support/technical assistance;
 - Benefits of participating in MIPS as a Virtual Group;
 - Lifespan of a Virtual Group; and
 - Requirements.



Feedback: Topic 1

- What steps would individual eligible clinicians and small group practices need to take in order to be prepared to form/join a Virtual Group?
- Please dial **1 (866) 452-7887** to provide feedback to this question.
- If prompted, use passcode: **73305116**
- You can also provide feedback in the chat box.



Feedback: Topic 2

- As individual eligible clinicians and small group practices are in the process of forming Virtual Groups, what type of support and/or technical assistance would be helpful to such entities?
- Please dial **1 (866) 452-7887** to provide feedback to this question.
- If prompted, use passcode: **73305116**
- You can also provide feedback in the chat box.



Feedback: Topic 3

- What benefit would you expect to get out of becoming part of a Virtual Group?
- Please dial **1 (866) 452-7887** to provide feedback to this question.
- If prompted, use passcode: **73305116**
- You can also provide feedback in the chat box.



Feedback: Topic 4

- What is your expectation regarding the lifespan of a Virtual Group (i.e., 1 year, 3 years, 10 years)?
- Please dial **1 (866) 452-7887** to provide feedback to this question.
- If prompted, use passcode: **73305116**
- You can also provide feedback in the chat box.



Feedback: Topic 5

- What type of requirements would you like to see for Virtual Groups?
- Please dial **1 (866) 452-7887** to provide feedback to this question.
- If prompted, use passcode: **73305116**
- You can also provide feedback in the chat box.



Feedback: Topic 6

- What issues or factors will CMS need to consider as Virtual Group policies are developed?
- Please dial **1 (866) 452-7887** to provide feedback to this question.
- If prompted, use passcode: **73305116**
- You can also provide feedback in the chat box.



Resources

- Visit <https://qpp.cms.gov/resources/education> to review the presentation and recording from the January 27, 2017 Virtual Groups webinar.
 - Today's webinar will be posted in the next week or so.
- For questions about the Quality Payment Program that are not related to Virtual Groups, please contact: qpp@cms.hhs.gov or 1-866-288-8292.



Participate in QPP Website Testing!

- CMS would like the Quality Payment Program website to meet the needs of the clinician community, by providing streamlined access to information and minimizing undue burdens for program participation.
- CMS invites representatives from organizations of all sizes to assess current and future functionality of the website, as well as make recommendations for improvements. CMS is looking for:
 - Medicare clinicians
 - Practice managers
 - Administrative staff
 - EHR and Registry vendors
- If interested, **please email Partnership@cms.hhs.gov** to participate in a one-on-one feedback session.



Thank You!

