EQIP Episodes Overview

Module 3: EQIP Episodes

What is an EQIP Episode?

An EQIP Episode is a defined period of care for a specific medical condition, procedure, or treatment under EQIP.

EQIP currently uses the Patient-Centered Episode System (PACES) as its episode grouper.

- The majority of EQIP Episodes are constructed based on PACES methodology.
- Non-PACES Episodes are created by the HSCRC in partnership with Clinical Subject Matter Experts.
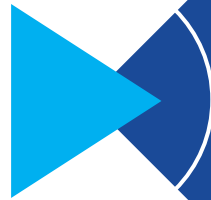
EQIP Episode Construction

Each episode will consist of the following periods:

Trigger

An index hospital stay or procedure during which the initial care was performed.

- Defined by a CPT or HCPCS code for procedural episodes.
- Defined by an ICD-10-CM diagnosis code for acute episodes.

Look-Back Period

The time period prior to the triggering event in which all costs related to the trigger will be counted.

Close Period

The time period after the triggering event in which all costs related to the trigger will be counted.

EQIP Episode Data and Sources

EQIP episodes are constructed from the Claim and Claim Line Feed (CCLF) data provided by CMS to the State of Maryland.

- This data file contains Medicare final action claims for all Part A and Part B services received by beneficiaries who reside in Maryland, regardless of where services were rendered.

- The file also contains claims information on all Medicare-covered services furnished within Maryland to non-residents.

Please note non-residents are excluded from EQIP episode construction. The data do not include certain substance abuse claims excluded from the dataset under rules promulgated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (i.e., SAMHSA claims).

Episode Selection

EQIP Entities can choose to participate in one or more clinical episodes within one specialty area, or multiple clinical episodes across more than one specialty area.

Please note EQIP Entities must meet a minimum clinical episode volume threshold to be eligible to participate in each type of EQIP episode.

EQIP offers Episodes in the following Clinical Categories:

- Allergy/ENT
- Behavioral Health
- Cardiology/Vascular
- Dermatology
- Emergency Department
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery/Wound Care
- Hematology/Oncology

- Infectious Disease
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics / MSK
- Pulmonary/Critical Care
- Rheumatology
- Urology

Want to Learn More?

Visit the full **EQIP Curriculum** to explore comprehensive learning modules and deepen your understanding of Maryland's Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP).