



# EQIP as an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (AAPM)



# CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP)

The Quality Payment Program (QPP) was created in 2017 to reward Medicare practitioners who provide high-quality and patient-centered care.<sup>1</sup>

QPP aims to:



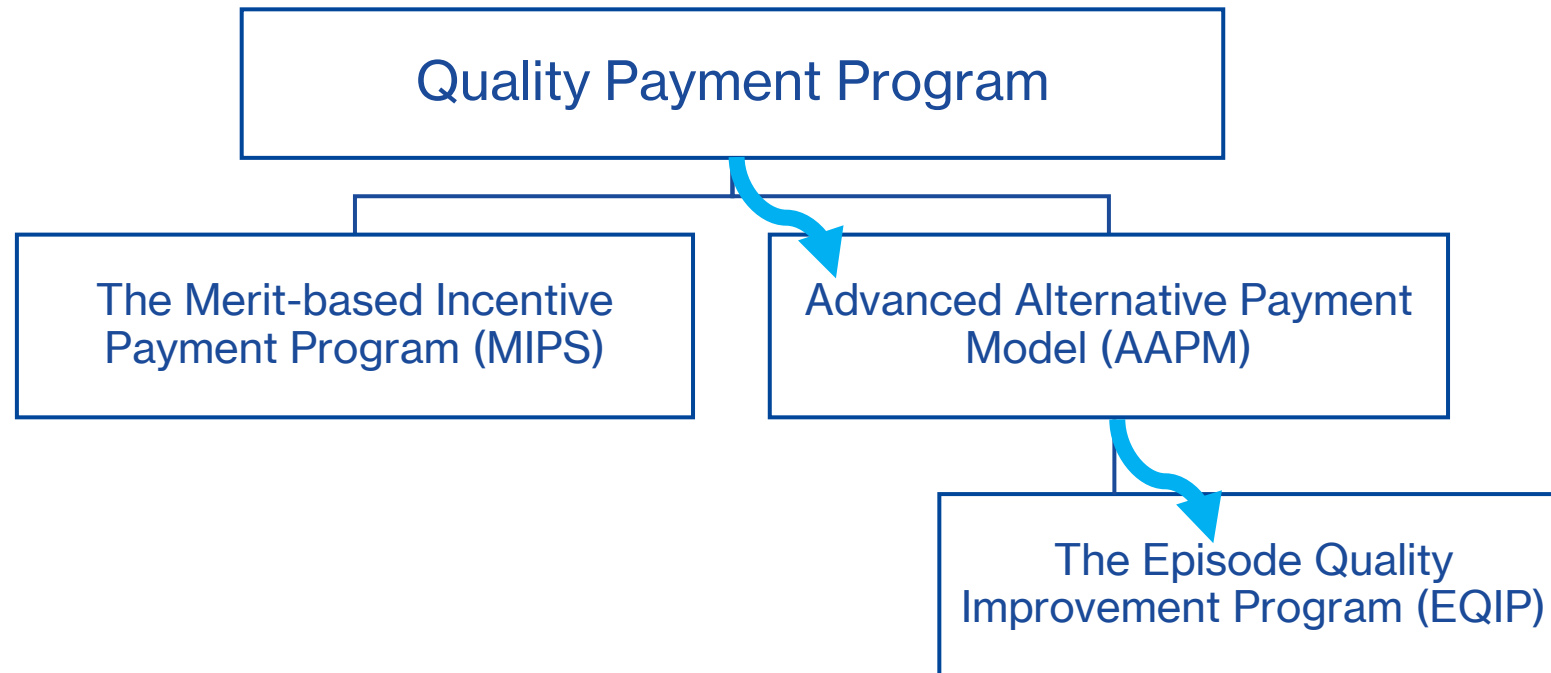
1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2024). *QPP Overview - QPP*. Available [here](#)

# Two Tracks of the QPP<sup>1</sup>



# EQIP as an Advanced Alternative Payment Model

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) developed EQIP in 2022 as an episode-based Advanced Alternative Payment Model (AAPM).



**Practitioners in EQIP  
are on the AAPM  
track of the QPP.**



# Qualifying APM Participants (QPs)

Practitioners participating in EQIP are considered Qualifying APM Participants (QPs).

QPs will receive the following benefits<sup>1</sup>:

- Exclusion from MIPS reporting
- Exclusion from MIPS payment adjustments
- For performance years 2017 – 2022, a 5 percent APM Incentive Payment
- For performance year 2023, a 3.5 percent APM Incentive Payment
- For performance year 2024, a 1.88 percent APM Incentive Payment and an increased physician fee schedule update based on the QP conversion factor
- For performance years 2025 and beyond, an increased physician fee schedule update based on the QP conversion factor



*Please note APM incentives are set by Congress and subject to change.*

# MIPS Exemption

Practitioners participating in EQIP are exempt from MIPS reporting and MIPS payment adjustments.

Please note:

- Exemption is at an individual NPI level.
- EQIP participants have the option to voluntarily report MIPS to receive a MIPS score for informational purposes ONLY. The QP status protects EQIP participants from any MIPS payment adjustments. Therefore, voluntary reporting is purely educational/preparatory.



# Qualifying APM Conversion Factor


Beginning in EQIP Performance Year 3 (Calendar Year 2024), QPs will receive a higher Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) update (“qualifying APM conversion factor”) than non-QPs.

- Payment rates under the Medicare PFS for covered professional services furnished by the QPs will be updated annually by the 0.75 percent qualifying APM conversion factor.
- Payments to non-QPs will be updated annually by a 0.25 percent conversion factor.

APM incentives are set by Congress and subject to change. Please visit the <https://qpp.cms.gov> for more information.



# Benefits for QPs by EQIP PY

EQIP Performance Year (PY)	MIPS Reporting & Payment Adjustments	APM Incentive Payment	Qualifying APM Conversion Factor
PY1 (Calendar Year 2022)	EXEMPT	5%	None
PY2 (Calendar Year 2023)	EXEMPT	3.5%	None
PY3 (Calendar Year 2024)	EXEMPT	1.88%	0.75
PY4 (Calendar Year 2025) AND BEYOND	EXEMPT	None	0.75 

***Please note: The Payment Year for APM Incentive Payments/Qualifying APM Conversion Factor is two years after the Performance Year.***



# How does CMS know I am a Qualifying APM Participant (QP)?

When you enroll in EQIP, your individual NPI will be sent to CMS. There are no additional actions required by practitioners to declare they are QPs.

You can use the [QPP Participation Lookup](#) to check your QPP status and requirements!



# 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).

