Prepare for Field Testing of Episode-Based Cost Measures

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its contractor, Acumen, LLC, will conduct field testing from **Aug. 17 to Sept. 18, 2020**, for five episode-based cost measures. The measures will undergo field testing before consideration of their potential use in the Cost performance category of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

Prepare for Field Testing!

Field Test Reports for eligible clinicians and clinician groups will be available on the **Quality Payment Program Portal** starting Aug. 17. If you think you might receive a Field Test Report based on the information about the measures provided in section (I) below, please **register for an account on the Quality Payment Program Portal** now!

- Acumen encourages you or your group’s authorized representative to create an account if you do not already have one. More information regarding registering for an account is available in the **QPP Access User Guide**.

- If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the Quality Payment Program Service Center via telephone at 1-866-288-8292 or via email at QPP@cms.hhs.gov.

(I) Introduction to Field Testing

Clinicians and clinician groups meeting the minimum number of episodes outlined below will receive a Field Test Report with information about their cost performance. This information will be for field testing purposes only. The measurement period for these Field Test Reports is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2019.

- 10 episodes for procedural and acute inpatient medical condition cost measures
- 20 episodes for chronic condition cost measures

Field Test Reports will be available for the following measures:

1. Asthma/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
2. Colon and Rectal Resection
3. Diabetes
4. Melanoma Resection
5. Sepsis

For more information about field testing, you may review the following educational materials currently available on the **MACRA Feedback Page**:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Field Testing Fact Sheet
- Episode-Based Cost Measures Development Process Document

The draft measure specifications for each measure will be available on the **MACRA Feedback Page** once field testing begins in August.
(II) How to Provide Feedback
CMS is seeking feedback from all clinicians and stakeholders. You can provide feedback on the draft measure specifications through this online survey, which will open at the start of field testing. A document containing specific questions about the measures for stakeholders to reference while reviewing the materials will be available on the MACRA Feedback Page. All survey questions will be optional, and you may attach a comment letter (as a PDF or Word document) in addition or as an alternative to responding to the survey questions. All feedback may be submitted anonymously. Participation is voluntary.

Stakeholder feedback on all the cost measures is vital in the measure refinement process, and CMS hopes you will consider sharing your input. CMS appreciated all the feedback it received in the fall 2018 field testing period, which is summarized in the field testing feedback summary report.

(III) Cost Measures Field Testing Webinar
CMS will be posting a recording of the Cost Measures Field Testing Webinar at the start of field testing. The goal of this webinar recording is to provide detailed information about the measure development process and field testing activities. Links to the webinar recording and slides will be available at the start of field testing.