

CMS releases MIPS Special Status information

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released new information that indicates whether clinicians have "[special status](#)" for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Special status refers to patient facing and hospital-based clinicians, as well as those considered a small or rural practice and/or in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

Special status affects EC and group reporting requirements for Advancing Care Information and Improvement Activities Physician anesthesiologists may look up their patient facing and hospital-based status by looking up their National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the [CMS eligibility tool](#).

Participating in NACOR is considered MIPS Improvement Activity

Eligible clinicians (ECs) who are performing quality reporting in NACOR can choose their participation in the registry as a MIPS Improvement Activity. AQI's NACOR is an [AHRQ-listed](#) patient safety organization, which falls under Improvement Activity - PSPA_1.

This medium-weighted activity equals 10 out of the required 40 points for ECs/groups. If an EC or group is considered non-patient facing, the activity is worth 20 points.

Last call for feedback on proposed quality measures

The public comment period on several American Society of Anesthesiologists proposed quality measures closes **Monday, August 7**. The public comment is an opportunity to provide early input on draft quality measures and to ensure that proposed quality measures are meaningful and relevant to clinical practice.

Provide comments on the [2017 Measure Comment webpage](#). For more information, email the Department of Quality and Regulatory Affairs at qra@asahq.org.

Take advantage of AQI's Virtual Office Hours

Looking for answers to your quality reporting questions? AQI is hosting its regularly scheduled [Virtual Office Hours](#) at 11 a.m. Central, Tuesday, August 8. ASA staff members issue quality reporting general announcements and participate in a question-and-answer session. [Register now](#).