



# A Step-by-Step Guide to Avoiding Medicare Payment Penalties

The Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP) is designed to potentially reward physicians for providing quality, high-value care to Medicare patients. **Reporting on one patient on one measure with CMS before the end of this year is all you need to do to avoid a negative 4% payment adjustment in 2019** under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Just follow these directions:

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| <b>Step 1</b> | Fill out a 1500 billing form as you normally would in boxes 1–20.  |
| <b>Step 2</b> | Enter the patient's diagnoses and procedure codes in boxes 21 and 24, as usual.  |
| <b>Step 3</b> | Visit <a href="http://qpp.cms.gov/measures/quality">qpp.cms.gov/measures/quality</a> to find the Quality Measure search tool. Search for the measure you're reporting and note its three-digit quality ID number.                    |
| <b>Step 4</b> | Go to <a href="http://qpp.cms.gov/resources/education">qpp.cms.gov/resources/education</a> , find a ZIP file named "Quality Measure Specifications," and download it on your computer.   |
| <b>Step 5</b> | Unzip the file and open the "QPP_quality_measure_specifications" folder. Use the quality ID code to find the claims document for the measure you're reporting. In this document, find the Quality Data Code (QDC), for that measure. |
| <b>Step 6</b> | Go back to your 1500 billing form and enter the QDC code in box 24D.   |
| <b>Step 7</b> | In box 24F, list a line-item charge of one cent (\$0.01) for the QDC codes you entered in box 24D.   |
| <b>Step 8</b> | Finish entering the information requested in boxes 25–33.  |
| <b>Step 9</b> | Submit your 1500 billing form to your Medicare Administrative Contractor.  |

Get direct links to all of these CMS tools at [ama-assn.org/qpp-reporting](http://ama-assn.org/qpp-reporting).