
Topic: Pathologists Quality Registry General FAQs

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GENERAL PATHOLOGISTS QUALITY REGISTRY QUESTIONS

What is the Pathologists Quality Registry?

The **Pathologists Quality Registry** improves practice performance by benchmarking against other pathology practices and makes it easier to qualify for bonuses under Medicare's Quality Payment Program (QPP) Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) track. This registry, developed by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), will be the first pathologist-specific registry and powered by FIGmd, a leading provider of clinical data registries.

The **Pathologists Quality Registry** will be available to pathologists for use in collecting medical and/or clinical data to foster improvement in the quality of care provided to patients in addition to MIPS reporting. Designed specifically for the practice of pathology by pathologists, the registry will ensure pathologists have a mechanism for quality improvement against the CAP's established standards, optimal opportunity for positive payment adjustments under MIPS, and compliance with requirements under the [Medicare QPP program](#).

Who is FIGmd?

The CAP has partnered in the development of the **Pathologists Quality Registry** with FIGmd, a company that specializes in developing clinical registries and integrating data from multiple sources into those registries. FIGmd has developed and maintained registries for several specialty societies, including the American College of Cardiology, American Society for Clinical Oncology, American Academy of Dermatology, American College of Emergency Physicians, American Academy of Neurology, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, American College of Rheumatology, and American Urological Association.

What are the benefits of using the Pathologists Quality Registry?

The **Pathologists Quality Registry** helps reduce the burden of reporting on pathologists by offering MIPS reporting for Quality Performance and Improvement Activities categories, which are the only two needed by non-patient-facing pathologists in 2018.

Pathologists Quality Registry instead of claims-based reporting for several reasons:

- Claims-based reporting **does not** support reporting for all categories of MIPS.
- Claims-based reporting **is only** available for a subset of measures that can be found in the Pathologists Quality Registry.
- Claims-based reporting **is only** based on Medicare patients, not all of your applicable patients.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data suggests that **clinicians' performance is higher when reporting through a registry** due to the availability of additional clinical data to support measures.

In addition, registry participants may choose to report as a group or individually. The complex claims-based reporting can only be used for individual reporting. The **Pathologists Quality Registry** will improve practice performance and identify opportunities to further enhance patient care with quarterly benchmarking reports against other pathology practices.

Is the Pathologists Quality Registry approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)?

The **Pathologists Quality Registry** is a CMS-approved, qualified clinical data registry (QCDR). The Pathologists Quality Registry has successfully completed a qualification process that collects medical and/or clinical data for the purpose of patient and disease tracking to foster improvement in the quality of care provided to patients.

With the CMS QCDR designation, the **Pathologists Quality Registry** can help by submitting your Medicare data to the CMS in order to comply the CMS latest Medicare payment program QPP.

The advantages of using a CMS approved QCDR are that:

- Multiple MIPS categories can be submitted through one mechanism
- Group reporting is allowed, as claims reporting is only for individuals
- Allows participants to track reporting progress throughout the year and provides benchmarking information for quality improvement

Since the **Pathologists Quality Registry** is a CMS-approved QCDR, participants may submit information on both the CMS QPP measures (eight for pathology) and on six non-QPP/QCDR pathology specific measures, which are only available within the **Pathologists Quality Registry**. The CMS allows up to 30 additional non-QPP/QCDR measures, and the CAP plans to add additional measures in the future. A QCDR gives a better picture of the overall quality of care provided, because QCDRs collect and report quality information on patients from all payers, not just Medicare patients. The CMS awards QCDR status on an annual basis. The CAP will re-apply next year in order to maintain QCDR status for the **Pathologists Quality Registry**.

What is the cost for the Pathologists Quality Registry?

The cost for the **Pathologists Quality Registry** is \$299 per CAP member per year. This price includes access to dashboards and standard reports, plus submission to the CMS for your MIPS reporting. Non-members may also enroll in the **Pathologists Quality Registry** at a cost of \$799 per pathologist per year at the point of Registry purchase to receive the member discount. For a practice, the total costs for participating in the registry will be the sum of the price for each practicing pathologist in the group.

Will benchmarking reports be available? Can I generate or access reports for a specific specialty or geographic area?

The **Pathologists Quality Registry** includes dashboards that provide you with access to everything from performance measurements and comparisons to basic analytics. Interactive tools increase usability and flexibility and put pertinent and actionable metrics at your fingertips. You can generate reports and measure your performance results against

the registry as a whole. If your practice has multiple locations, you can benchmark each location separately.

Is GPRO (Group Practice Reporting Option) available through Pathologists Quality Registry?

Yes. A group is a practice of two or more Eligible Clinicians (EC's) that would like to combine their measures and encounters under one tax identification number (TIN) for submission of the program. You will not have to register with the CMS to report as a GPRO. You will indicate your submission preference (Individual vs. GPRO) when requested via FIGmd, and/or at the end of the year within the MIPS Submission Module on your dashboard.

Why is the CAP providing the Pathologists Quality Registry?

The CAP is the only pathologists' medical specialty society to offer the only the CMS approved **Pathologists Quality Registry** on the market designed by pathologists for pathologists. With over 50 years of experience in collecting data for peer comparison, quality improvement and regulatory compliance, the CAP has the expertise and track record, the relationships with the CMS to help pathologists comply with MIPS quality reporting requirements.

In the past Medicare payment was based on just reporting measures; now, Medicare payment is based on how you perform on the measures, compared to your peers. Pathologists have the opportunity to report, and potentially receive incentive payments by demonstrating the highest quality care. The CAP wants to reduce the administrative burden of reporting, while helping pathologists maximize their performance and MIPS revenue.

Can the Pathologists Quality Registry help my practice with the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 2018 reporting?

Yes.

Can the Pathologists Quality Registry help my practice with the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 2017 reporting?

Enrollment in the registry will be for the MIPS 2018 reporting year. This means you would need to identify an alternate methodology for the MIPS 2017 reporting period. With 2017 being denoted a transitional year by the CMS, you can still report data via claims, so depending on the processes in place with your practice, you may be able to continue with that process. We have a [claims-based reporting fact sheet](#) that can guide reporting for 2017.

How do I sign up for the Pathologists Clinical Registry?

Sign-up and Enrollment for the registry opens October 8, 2017. The initial launch of the registry is for 2018 manual data entry. To complete the one-time sign-up and enrollment, go to registry.cap.org, and you will see instructions on the information you will need to have ready to complete the enrollment. Enrollment includes completing basic information about you and your practice, providing your NPI and TIN, providing additional information about your practice and different locations, if applicable, signing standard legal agreements, and

providing payment. We estimate that it will take you less than 30 minutes to complete the one-time sign-up and enrollment in the registry.

What happens after I complete enrollment?

After you complete sign up, enrollment, and payment, you will have access to the web-based manual data entry portal starting January 2, 2018 so you can start entering manual data at the beginning of the year. Prior to entering any manual data, practices must complete the sign up portal, and sign legal agreements to complete enrollment. For manual data entry, practices must complete the enrollment process no later than October 1, 2018 in order to be eligible to submit 2018 MIPS through the registry, and in order to start entering data to meet the MIPS 2018 reporting deadline of March 2019.

Where can I find training information to help me complete enrollment?

You can find training and more information about enrollment at <http://registry.cap.org>.

Does the Pathologists Quality Registry automate reporting via LIS-facilitated submission?

The CAP is currently pilot testing LIS-billing system and EHR-facilitated data entry into the registry. The initial launch of the registry is for manual data entry only, as data integration testing and integration is refined. The CAP will release information on successful integration and key dates once the pilot testing is completed.

What if I have more questions?

If you have question about using the **Pathologists Quality Registry**, email registry.inquiries@cap.org.