



Quality Payment Program Clinician Champions Project

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Project Overview: Since its inception in 2016, the role of the **QPP Clinician Champions** has been to provide feedback for consideration in CMS tools and resources developed for the Quality Payment Program, as well as to provide real-time feedback on implementation of the Merit Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models in communities of practice nationwide.

“Change is disturbing when it is done to us, exhilarating when it is done by us. Being a Clinician Champion allows me to feel like I am part of the transformation of healthcare.”

“We have an important voice as Clinician Champions. We are the voice of the providers out in the field. We live the real life of the programs.”

“CMS and the Champions have worked diligently so that even a practice like mine can succeed.”

Select quotes from Clinician Champions



Clinician Champion recommendations to enhance communication efforts regarding practice transformation:

- Support collaboration at the local level among practices caring for the same patient population
- Align expectations of financial risk with total cost of care
- Accelerate the discussion of social determinants of health and how practices who serve populations with high social risk can be successful in QPP
- Focus outreach on what practices are doing right now, and describe how practices' current activity provides an opportunity for success in QPP and practice transformation
- Provide real-time feedback on cost and quality; this would make the connection between MVPs and APMs more tangible to clinicians considering practice transformation

Key opportunities for CMS to address health equity in the Quality Payment Program:

- Support or encourage collaboration at the local level among practices caring for the same population
- Identify opportunities where resources for small practices participating in QPP can be presented simultaneously with information about infrastructure support such as broadband (i.e., HRSA programs, FCC grants). Clinicians/practices don't know what to do with all the information (the “what”) unless we provide additional details regarding available resources (the “how”)
- Discussions with clinicians regarding the social risk and social determinants of health in their population are an opportunity to recommend the use of MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs) or participation in Alternative Payment Models that support care of the whole person
- Focusing on measures that capture the patient’s journey (the quality progress) may help practices demonstrate their quality while caring for those at greatest social risk