

Payment Adjustment

Your payment adjustment depends on how your CPS compares with the performance threshold (PT).

Payment Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Performance Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Maximum bonus/penalty	+4%*/-4%	+5%*/-5%	+7%*/-7%	+9%/-9%
CPS between additional PT and 100	Bonus based on a linear sliding scale, with additional bonus for exceptional performance.**			
CPS between PT and additional PT	Bonus based on a linear sliding scale.**			
CPS = PT	0%	0%	0%	0%
CPS from 0.25 PT up to PT	Penalty based on a linear sliding scale.**			
CPS between 0 and 0.25 PT	Maximum penalty (e.g., -4% in 2019).			

* See “Bonuses may be scaled upward,” below.

** See “Calculating bonuses” and “Calculating penalties,” below.

In the 2019 payment year, the Medicare payments for most ophthalmologists will be subject to a MIPS-related payment adjustment. That adjustment will depend on how your CPS for the 2017 performance year compares with the 2017 performance threshold.

What’s the performance threshold (PT)? The PT is the average CPS score for all MIPS ECs during a baseline period. If your 2017 CPS is greater than the PT that CMS calculates for 2017, you’ll receive a payment bonus in 2019; if it is lower, you’ll receive a payment penalty.

Calculating bonuses. When calculating bonuses for scores above the PT, the bonus is based on a linear scale (e.g., if CPS = PT, no bonus; if CPS = 100, you would get the maximum bonus.). Furthermore, during the first 5 payment years (2019-2024), MIPS ECs can receive an additional bonus for “exceptional performance” if their CPS is above the “additional performance threshold” (CMS hasn’t yet decided how it will determine that threshold). CMS has been allotted \$500M per year for these exceptional performance bonuses.

Calculating penalties. The methodology for calculating penalties doesn’t quite mirror the one for bonuses. CMS will still create a linear scale—from CPS = 0 to CPS = PT, but it will only apply that scale if the CPS is more than a quarter of the PT; scores below that get the maximum penalty (e.g., -4% in 2019, -5% in 2020, etc.)

The standard bonuses are budget neutral. With the exception of the bonuses for exceptional performance, money paid for positive payment adjustments must be balanced out by the reduced payments for negative adjustments.

Bonuses may be scaled upward. Because the methodologies for calculating bonuses and payments are slightly different, CMS may need to scale the maximum bonus upward in order to keep the program budget neutral. The regulations allow a maximum scaling factor of 3 (e.g., the +4% bonus for 2019 could be increased to +12%).