Welcome to APTA’s podcast series on value-based care, which explains how value is measured in the provision of health care, and describes different aspects of the Quality Payment Program, including the Merit-based Incentive Program, or MIPS, and Advanced Alternative Payment Models, or Advanced APMs. Episode 18 is The Partial Qualifying Participant Threshold Under an Advanced APM. To get the most from this episode, you may want to check out earlier episodes first.

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- For clinicians to be Qualifying Participants, or QPs, in an Advanced APM, a certain percentage of their Medicare Part B services be furnished through the Advanced APM Entity.
- Clinicians in Advanced APMs who do not meet the QP thresholds for payment amount and number of patients can become “Partial” QPs if they meet slightly reduced thresholds.
- Typically, a clinician who treats patients within an Advanced APM, and is eligible to be designated as a QP, cannot also participate in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System, or MIPS. Clinicians who qualify as Partial QPs, however, can choose to participate in MIPS and potentially receive a MIPS payment adjustment.
- To be a Partial QP, the clinician must meet the threshold of either the payment amount or patient count applicable for that year.
- Under both thresholds, beneficiaries are considered either attributed or attribution-eligible. The APM entity is responsible for the cost and quality of care of attributed beneficiaries. Attribution-eligible beneficiaries are those who potentially could be attributed but are not.
- To determine the payment amount threshold score, CMS divides Part B payment for attributed beneficiaries by Part B payments for attribution-eligible beneficiaries.
- To determine the patient count threshold score, CMS divides the number of attributed beneficiaries by the number of attribution-eligible beneficiaries.
- To be Partial QPs, clinicians must receive either 20% of their payments through the Advanced APM or see 10% of their patients through the Advanced APM.
- These amounts stay the same through performance year 2020 but will increase in 2021 to 40% of payments or 25% of patients.
- Clinicians who meet or exceed either of these thresholds are Partial QPs. While not eligible for the 5% APM incentive payment, they can participate in MIPS if they choose. Those clinicians will be scored using the APM Scoring Standard.
- The decision to participate in MIPS is not something to take lightly. A clinician’s MIPS payment adjustment could be either positive or negative. However, by not participating in MIPS, clinicians receive no payment adjustment for the year.
- Finally, it’s important to understand that the Quality Payment Program does not change how any particular APM operates or rewards value, and APMs may have their own quality reporting and participation requirements. Therefore, if clinicians do not satisfy
either the QP or Partial QP thresholds, they may still be eligible for rewards (or losses) specific to that APM.

This has been Episode 18 of the podcast series on value-based care. To find all episodes of this series, go to www.apta.org/MACRA/. You also can find these and all APTA podcasts on iTunes by searching APTA Podcasts or by going to www.apta.org/Podcasts. Thanks for listening.

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