

THE ONLY MACRA/MIPS PREP CHECKLIST YOU'LL NEED (FOR NOW)

If you're confused by MACRA, you're not alone. In fact, most ophthalmologists reported that they've never even heard the word before. Whatever boat you're in—completely new to the concept, trying to prepare but don't know where to start, or somewhere in between—we can help you put your practice in the best position to succeed—regardless of proposed implementation timelines. The checklist below breaks down everything you need to do now to prepare for MACRA to cash in on reporting incentives and avoid penalties in 2019.

- ✓ **EDUCATE YOURSELF** on proposed regulations and industry concerns. Websites for industry organizations often feature "advocacy" pages detailing legislation and analysis. The CMS website contains several clear, readable presentations on MACRA and the MIPS/APM scoring categories.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Watch this video on why MACRA was created in the first place: www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=7df7cHgha54
- View this CMS presentation on the Quality Payment Program: www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/MACRA-MIPS-and-APMs/Quality-Payment-Program-MACRA-NPRM-Slides.pdf
- View this CMS presentation on MIPS: www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/MACRA-MIPS-and-APMs/Quality-Payment-Program-MIPS-NPRM-Slides.pdf

- ✓ **BUILD AWARENESS** throughout your practice on the importance of clinical documentation. Accurate and optimized documentation is non-negotiable if you want to benefit from reporting programs incentives and avoid penalties.

- ✓ **ASSESS THE SKILL LEVELS** of your coding team on capturing clinical documentation, especially in regards to the increased specificity that ICD-10 requires.

ACTION ITEM:

Have your coding team read all of our Eye Care ICD-10 Crash Courses.

- **1st ICD-10 Crash Course:** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/eye-care-leaders-icd-10-crash-course
- **Diabetic Retinopathy Coding:** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/icd-10-crash-course-diabetic-retinopathy-coding
- **Pterygium (Surfer's Eye):** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/icd-10-crash-course-pterygium-surfer%E2%80%99s-eye
- **Glaucoma Coding:** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/icd-10-crash-course-glaucoma-coding
- **It's Laterality, Doctor:** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/icd-10-crash-course-it%E2%80%99s-laterality-doctor
- **What's Up with Placeholders and Seventh Characters?** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/icd-10-crash-course-what%E2%80%99s-placeholders-and-seventh-characters
- **Cataract Coding:** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/icd-10-crash-course-cataract-coding

- ✓ **IDENTIFY CLINICAL CONDITIONS** requiring ongoing treatment plans and increased patient monitoring for those being treated in your office.

- ✓ **PERFORM A GAP ANALYSIS** for your current quality initiatives. A gap analysis helps you identify resources you have, resources you still need, and optimal allocation of those resources to position your practice to succeed under MACRA.

- ✓ **DEVELOP A PLAN** of action for patient engagement. Engaged patients tend towards better outcomes, and MACRA emphasizes outcomes. Scoring is risk-adjusted, but this could be a stumbling block for physicians who treat large numbers of elderly or low-income patients or those with chronic conditions.

ACTION ITEM:

A simple way to increase patient engagement is to have an online presence. Use our tips below to help you build your online reputation.

- **6 Simple Ways to Get Positive Patient Reviews (and 1 to Avoid):** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/6-simple-ways-get-positive-patient-reviews-and-1-avoid
- **3 Ways to Start Monitoring Your Online Reputation Today:** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/start-monitoring-your-online-reputation-today-3-steps-you-can-take-right-now
- **3 Reasons You Must Embrace Personal Branding:** eyecareleaders.com/magazine/article/building-your-online-reputation-3-reasons-you-must-embrace-personal-branding

- ✓ **EDUCATE** ancillary staff members in their roles for documentation.

- ✓ **WORK WITH TECH VENDORS** on patient recalls and notifications. Recalls ensure patient engagement and provide proof of your efforts to manage patient conditions, but they're also simply a good business practice. Patients you don't recall are patients who may not return—meaning lost revenue.

ACTION ITEM:

Call your EHR or PM vendor and ask about their process for recalling patients, and how it can be implemented in your practice.

- ✓ **MEET REGULARLY** with stakeholders to discuss progress and timelines.

ACTION ITEM:

Talk to your physician friends about their understanding and progress with MACRA. Trade best reporting practices. If you work with a tech vendor, post questions on your user forum about how your vendor can help you prepare, and what other customers are doing.

MACRA is proposed to begin January 1, 2017. If the final ruling on MACRA is issued in November as anticipated, that means you'll only have two months to whip your reporting into shape, get incentives, and avoid penalties. Start preparing for MACRA now (with our checklist!)—you'll be glad you did.



Rhonda Buckholtz, CPC, CPMA, CPC-I, CRC, CDEO, CHIPSE, CENTC has more than 25 years of experience specializing in healthcare management, reimbursement, billing, and coding. In addition to providing professional instruction, she has authored many articles for health care publications and has spoken at national industry conferences. She is co-chair for the WEDI ICD-10 Implementation Workgroup, and the Advanced Payment Models Workgroup and has provided ongoing testimony for ICD-10 and standardization of data for the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (a public advisory body to the Secretary of Health and Human Services). She also sits on the Provider Outreach and Education committee for Novitas Solutions, which provides administrative services for government-sponsored health care programs. Rhonda is the Vice President of Strategic Development for Eye Care Leaders.

CONTACT ONE OF OUR PRACTICE CONSULTANTS TODAY FOR MORE DETAILS.

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