



NAMAS Weekly Auditing & Compliance Tips

July 22, 2016

MACRA & MIPS Explained

You may have already heard that on April 16, 2015, the bipartisan legislation signed into law the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). MACRA was created to repeal the sustainable growth formula, change the way physicians are paid by going to a value-based system instead of a volume system, streamline programs under the new Merit Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and provide bonus payments to physicians who participate in eligible alternative payment models (APMs).

But what does this all mean? The final rule for MACRA has not yet been approved, but here is what we know now:

Through MACRA, HHS is going to offer multiple pathways with different risk levels and rewards for providers in order to tie in more payments to the value of the visit rather than the quantity. Over a period of time, MACRA is going to allow more providers to participate in APMs and minimize additional reporting burdens for APMs participants. In layman's terms, this means it will allow insurance carriers to see a larger picture of how a provider practices medicine, which will most likely open the door for more audits and more scrutiny on how providers practice medicine - or how the insurance company tells the provider to practice medicine in the world of managed care. MACRA will also be used to support and develop APMs for Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and other payer arrangements.

Under MIPS, physicians and practitioners will be scored on four main categories: quality, resource use, clinical practice improvement activities, and meaningful use of a certified EHR technology. In the first two years, MIPS will only impact

Get the Details of MACRA in Our Upcoming 90-Minute Webinar



MACRA: An In-Depth Look

Speaker: Grant Huang

Wednesday, July 27

2:00pm EST

[Click Here to Register for this Webinar](#)

This webinar is approved for 1.5 AAPC CEUs

Become a Member

JOIN TODAY!

As a NAMAS member, you'll receive access to monthly webinars for CEUs (including

physicians, PAs, NPs, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. After three years, the Secretary may broaden the eligibility for MIPS to Physical or Occupational Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists, Nurse Midwives, Clinical Social Workers, Clinical Psychologists, and Dietitians/Nutritional Professionals. The first MIPS reporting period will be 2017. Here is a breakdown of the four categories and a brief description of exactly what CMS is looking for:

- **Quality** The quality category accounts for 50 percent of the MIPS score in the first year. For this category, clinicians would choose six measures to report (versus the nine measures currently required under the Physician Quality Reporting System). In addition, for individual clinicians and small groups (2-9 clinicians), MIPS calculates two population measures based on claims data, meaning there are no additional reporting requirements for clinicians for population measures. For groups with 10 or more clinicians, MIPS calculates three population measures. The measures would each be worth up to ten points, for a total of 80 to 90 possible points depending on group size. The proposal strives to align with the private sector and reduce the reporting burden by including the core quality measures that private payers already use for their clinicians. When choosing the six quality measures, clinicians would choose one cross-cutting measure and one outcome measure (if applicable) or another high quality measure. High quality measures are measures related to patient outcomes, appropriate use, patient safety, efficiency, patient experience, or care coordination. There will be more than 200 measures to pick from, and more than 80 percent of the quality measures proposed are tailored for specialists.
- **Advancing Care Information** Clinicians will report key measures of interoperability and information exchange. Clinicians will be rewarded for their performance on measures that matter most to the physician. Advancing care information will be scored off of six measures: protect patient health, patient electronic access, coordination of care through patient engagement, electronic prescribing, health information exchange, and public health and clinic data registry reporting. Physicians are eligible for 100 points for this category and this category represents 25 percent of the overall MIPS score.
- **Clinical Practice Improvement Activities** Clinicians can choose the activities best suited for their practice. The rule proposes over 90 activities from which to choose. These activities include: expanded practice access, population management, care coordination, beneficiary engagement, safety, practice assessments, and participation in an alternative payment program. Clinicians participating in medical home health will receive full credit in this category and

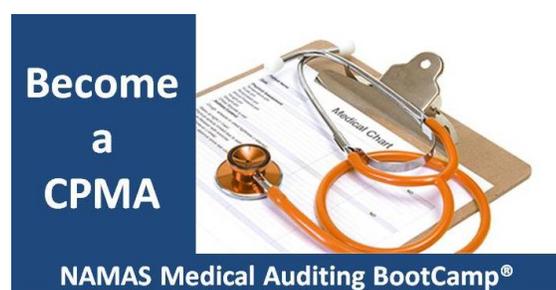
those hard to find CPMA CEUs!), a subscription to BC Advantage magazine, discounts on products and NAMAS training events, and much, much more!

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For added convenience, NAMAS accepts PayPal, PayPal Credit, quarterly and monthly payments of membership dues.

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Our onsite or online training program will not only prepare you to sit for the medical auditing certification test, but will prepare you for a career as a medical auditor.

As a bootcamp attendee, you will receive the NAMAS Auditor's Resource & Prep Guide, 16 AAPC CEUs, AND a 1 year NAMAS membership!

Our **onsite** schedule is as follows:

August 24-25: Atlanta, GA
September 15-16: Nashville, TN
October 6-7: Birmingham, AL
November 3-4: Charlotte, NC
December 5-6: Orlando, FL

Our next **online** session begins September 10!

those participating in APMs will earn a minimum of half the credit (30 points). Clinicians can receive a maximum of 60 points for this category which represents 15 percent of the overall MIPS score.

- **Resource Use** CMS will calculate these measures based on claims and availability of sufficient volume. Clinicians do not need to report anything. This category is 10 percent of the MIPS score and the total point is the average score of all resources measured by CMS.

CMS also included one bonus point for physicians who report immunizations to the health registry. With that being said, physicians will face either a positive adjustment or a negative adjustment based on the qualifiers listed above. In 2018, physicians could receive a maximum of a 4% decrease in payment if their MIPS score is below 25% or a 4% increase in payment. These maximum percentages will continue to increase each year. By 2022, clinicians will be facing either a 9% increase or a 9% decrease in payment.

Who is immune from MIPS? CMS has stated that hospitals, facilities, and clinicians who qualify for the bonus payment or are below the low volume threshold are eligible for alternative payment models. Everyone else will be required to participate in MIPS.

Alternative payment models, according to the MACRA law, include the following: CMS innovation center model (other than Health Care Innovation Award), MSSP (Medicare Shared Savings Program), demonstration (under the Health Care Quality Demonstration Program), and demonstration required by Federal law. MACRA will not change the reward values in APMs and APM participants who are not "QPs" (physicians and practitioners who have a certain percentage of their patients or payments through an eligible APM) will receive favorable scoring under the MIPS clinical practice improvement activities performance category. Participants that are in the most advanced APMs may be determined to be qualifying APM participants, and as a result, are not subject to MIPS. These participants will receive a 5% lump sum bonus payment for years 2019-2024 and will then receive a higher fee schedule update for 2026 and onward.

Although the final rule for MACRA has not yet been approved by CMS, it's important to be as educated as you can on the proposed ruling. NAMAS will be offering a 90-minute in-depth webinar on Wednesday, August 27th from 2:00-3:30pm EST. During this webinar, Grant Huang will go over the proposed ruling in depth, explaining each category and what it means for you and your practice. This session has been approved for 1.5 AAPC CEUs. **Click here to register for this MACRA in-depth webinar**

This Week's Audit Tip

Provided by:
James Goosie



**Click Here to Learn More About The
NAMAS Medical Auditing BootCamp**

Take Your Auditing Skills to the Next Level at an E/M Auditing BootCamp



For those with a basic foundation of E&M auditing, or experienced E&M auditors just looking for a refresher, our 1-day E&M Auditing BootCamp is for you!

MDM? Medical Necessity? Guidelines? Audit Policies? We'll cover all of this AND more in this training program

Attend one of our upcoming **ONLINE** or **ONSITE** sessions:

We have 3 **online** series options to choose from:

1. Online Tues/Thurs evening courses- beginning August 9th
2. Live online 1-day sessions: August 10 or October 24
3. Live online lunch & learns: August 22 & 24 OR September 27 & 28

Or, attend one of our 1-day **onsite** sessions:

August 30, 2016: Tampa, FL
September 8, 2016: Knoxville, TN
September 14, 2016: San Antonio, TX
October 6, 2016: Covington, LA
November 15, 2016: Columbus, OH

James is a Management Consultant for our parent organization, DoctorsManagement. In this role, James evaluates practices' workflows to provide operations and process improvements for continued growth.



[Click Here to Learn More About The NAMAS E&M Auditing BootCamp](#)

Weekly Tip Sponsor



8TH ANNUAL
Auditing & Compliance
CONFERENCE 2016

Join Us at the NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference in Orlando, FL

Pre-Conference: Tuesday, December 6
Conference: Wednesday, December 7-
Friday, December 9

Venue: Loews Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando

NAMAS Calendar of Events



[Click the image above to view our monthly calendar](#)

Upcoming Webinars

NAMAS is proud to present the following webinars in July



The Intersection of Risk Management & Exclusion Screening

Speaker: Paul Weidenfeld
July 26, 2016
2pm EST

MACRA: An In-Depth Look

Speaker: Grant Huang
July 27, 2016
2pm EST

Dress for Success

Speaker: Shannon DeConda



NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference

December 6-9, 2016





Just steps away from Universal Orlando and Universal City Walk, the Loews Portofino Bay is like taking a trip to Italy. Take a water taxi to City Walk for some fun nightlife, or spend your downtime relaxing in the piazza or by the pool. This is truly a one of a kind resort and we're excited for you to join us for our 8th annual Auditing & Compliance Conference!

[Click Here to View the Conference Agenda](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)

RACmonitor

We've partnered with **RACmonitor** to provide an exciting agenda, complete with sessions geared toward physician-based auditing, facility-based auditing, E&M auditing and even physician-based compliance. You won't want to miss it!

UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER CONTEST

During our exhibitor reception on Wednesday evening, **NAMAS will be hosting our first ever ugly holiday sweater contest!** Attend the reception in your ugliest holiday attire for voting by our group of exhibitors. The attendee who wins the contest will receive a scholarship for complimentary registration to next year's conference!

Don't delay in registering- conference registration will increase after this month!

NAMAS Conference Speaker Spotlight

Speaker Spotlight

Meet our speakers for the



Shannon DeConda,
CPC, CPC-I, CEMC,
CMSCS, CPMA

Partner, DoctorsManagement
President, NAMAS

Conference Sessions:

August 2, 2016
2pm EST

The Role of QA in an Effective Audit Policy
Speaker: Sara San Pedro
August 9, 2016
2pm EST

NAMAS Members: Watch your Email for Registration Links

Non-Members: Email namas@namas.co to learn how to attend these webinars

A Note From PowerBuying

Save on HP Toner Cartridges

Save on Printer Cartridges with PowerBuying!



Through DoctorsManagement's PowerBuying division, you can receive exclusive pricing on Xerox branded HP compatible cartridges.

Details:

- Cost savings in excess of 35-40% of original manufacturer cartridges
- Cartridges that either match or exceed HP original page yields
- Reuse of approximately 90 percent of piece parts reduces disposal to landfills
- Unconditional, 100% lifetime guarantee on Xerox replacement cartridges for HP laser printers for as long as the Xerox cartridge has toner in it
- Xerox replacement cartridges for HP laser printers are sustainably manufactured, following the global standards set forth by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

To start saving today, email **Craig King** at

NAMAS 8th Annual
Auditing & Compliance
Conference
Orlando, FL | December 6-9, 2016

View the full conference agenda &
register today at
www.namasconference.com



8th ANNUAL
Auditing & Compliance
CONFERENCE 2016

- E&M Advanced Auditing
- Who Are You? An Auditor? A Fraud Investigator? A Compliance Professional?
- Stump the Healthcare Provider

To start saving today, email Craig King at cking@drsmgmt.com

Complimentary Tip of the Week

Our weekly auditing & compliance tip emails are available to anyone who could benefit from this information.

If you know someone who would like to receive these emails, invite them to sign.

Click the image above to be added to our email list!

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Are you a professional in the healthcare industry who would like to be featured in our weekly auditing and compliance tips?

Submit your 500-1000 word tip to NAMAS via email to namas@namas.co

If your tip is used in one of our weekly emails, we will provide you with a Visa Gift Card for use of your tip.

A Note From Our Parent Organization

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Leave the business of medicine to us

Credentialing & Provider Enrollment

At DoctorsManagement, we can quickly credential you or your physicians with the necessary payors. We assist solo physicians, multi-specialty groups, and even community hospitals. DoctorsManagement provides full credentialing/enrollment, coaching, and revalidation services

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