

Action Required:

Deadline for providers who need to file a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exemption for PY2021 is **December 31, 2021**.

As part of your annual ACO requirements, CMS recently released the guidelines for the 2021 Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exemption process. 30% of the ACO's total MIPS score is comprised of how the ACO scores under Promoting Interoperability. Please consider applying for the hardship exemption if your practice meets the following qualifications:

- You're a small practice (fewer than 15 providers)
- You have decertified EHR technology
- You have insufficient internet connectivity
- You face extreme and uncontrollable circumstances such as disaster, practice closure, severe financial distress or vendor issues
- You lack control over the availability of certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT)

The ACO cannot request a hardship exemption on your behalf. Only the Participant TIN or NPI can request a hardship exemption from CMS. While not required, it is recommended that ACO Participants select the "Group" option. This will apply the hardship application to all NPIs affiliated with the Participant TIN. **The deadline to request an exemption for PY2021 is December 31, 2021.**

If you believe that you or your practice are eligible for a hardship exemption, please visit <https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/exception-applications> to apply online.

CMS will notify you of the status of your hardship exemption via email. If you have any issues with your hardship exemption application or HARP account, please call CMS' Quality Payment Program ("QPP") at 1-866-288-8292.

If your practice currently utilizes Scripps Community Connect, please contact your SCC Account Manager regarding next steps for reporting Promoting Interoperability (PI).

If you have any questions, please contact your Practice Outreach Manager designated by your primary office location:

North of SR-52:

- Stacy Pevney at pevney.stacy@scrippshealth.org or 858-537-7910

South of SR-52:

- Eydie Strouse at strouse.eydie@scrippshealth.org or 619-279-9868

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