# How to Apply for a MIPS 2023 COVID Exception

07/24/2024 4:40 pm EDT

CMS has extended the Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances (EUC) exception application and MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance category hardship Exception application to allow **clinicians**, **groups**, **virtual groups,** and **APM Entities** to submit an application requesting MIPS performance category reweighting due to the current COVID-19 public health emergency. Click here to learn more about this and other QPP exception applications.

The MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception application deadline is 8 PM ET on January 2nd, 2024.

Follow these steps to apply for the COVID-19-related extreme and uncontrollable circumstances exception for a group, virtual group, or APM Entity:

1. Log in to qpp.cms.gov. Click on the **Exceptions Application** menu option.
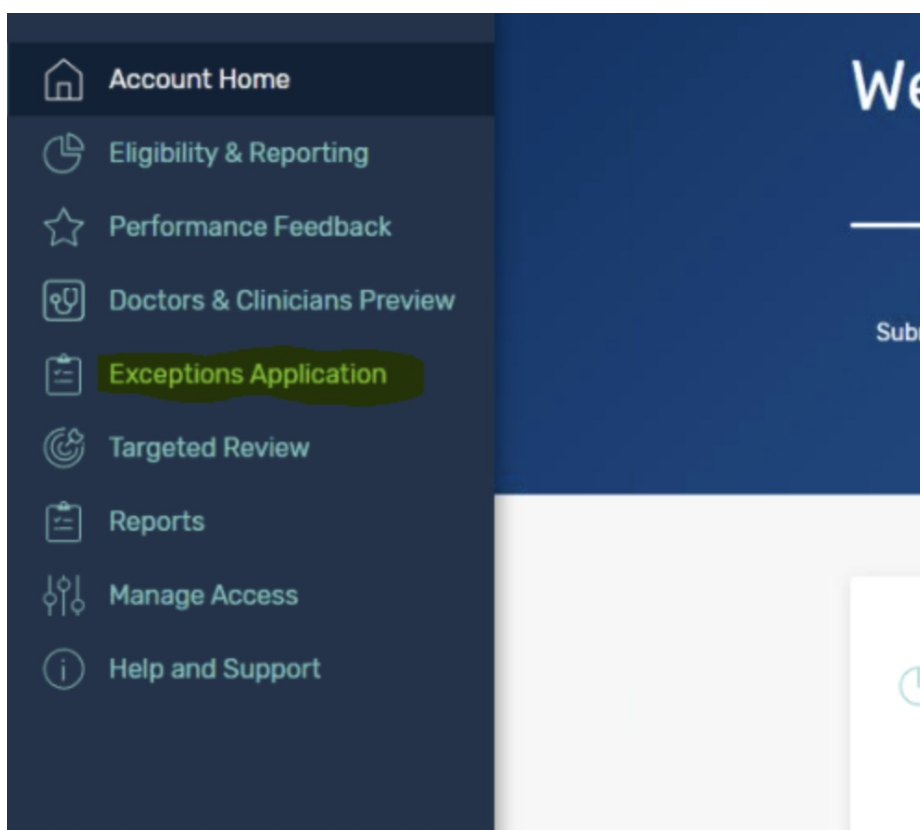
2. Select **Add New QPP Exception**.

Feb 1, 2021
2020 COVID E&UC Exceptions
Period Closes

...sion period, individuals, groups, and virtual groups cannot submit an application
...on for an APM Entity will not override performance category reweighting from an

More Filters ⌄   **+ ADD NEW QPP EXCEPTION**

3. Pick the **Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception** option.

Add New Exception

> ⚠ The PI Hardship submission period ended on **December 31, 2020**. We are only accepting E&UC applications at this time.

Exception Type * ⑦

○ Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception

MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, and virtual groups may submit a Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception Application citing one of the following specified reasons:

- You're a small practice
- 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 CEHRT

◉ Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception

The Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances application is reserved for instances where there is indeed an Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstance, such as a **natural disaster, public health emergency or other significant event**, that prevents

CANCEL   CONTINUE ›

4. Set the **Application Type** to the appropriate option for your practice.

Add New Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Application

Application Type: * ⑦

(●) Individual
(○) Group
(○) Virtual Group
(○) APM Entity

Clinician NPI * ⑦

e.g. 1234567890

CANCEL   SAVE

SAVE & CONTINUE >

5. Complete the Practice Information. For the Submitter/Third Party Intermediary Relationship - click what applies. Most of the time this is set to Physician Staff.

Group Practice Name * ⑦

Select   ⌄

Submitter Details

Contact Phone Number * ⑦

Phone Number   Ext. (Optional)

Contact Email Address * ⑦

Email

Submitter/Third Party Intermediary Relationship * ⑦

Physician Staff   ⌄

6. Select the appropriate Uncontrollable Circumstances **Event Type** (COVID-19) and set your **Event Date Range.**

Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Details

Event Type * ⑦

○ COVID-19

○ Natural Disaster

○ Ransomware / Malware

○ Medical Issue

○ Other

Event Date Range * ⑦

| Start Date 📅 | To | End Date 📅 |

☐ Event Still Persists

Event Description * ⑦

Enter a brief description of the event

7. Choose the Performance Category Affected options you wish to apply for an exception for. If you want the hardship to apply to the entire MIPS program, you will select all categories.

Performance Category Affected * ⑦

☐ Quality

This category covers the quality of the care you delivered, based on performance measures created by CMS, as well as medical professional and stakeholder groups. **Do not select this category if you were able to report data for at least one year.**

☐ Promoting Interoperability

This category focuses on patient engagement and the electronic exchange of health information by proactively sharing information with other clinicians or the patient in a comprehensive manner. **Do not select this category if you were able to report data for at least 90 days.**

☐ Improvement Activities

This category includes an inventory of activities that assess how you improved your care processes, enhanced patient engagement in care, and increased access to care. **Do not select this category if you were able to report data for at least 90 days.**

☐ Cost

The cost of the care you provide is calculated by CMS based on your Medicare claims. MIPS uses cost measures to gauge the total cost of care during the year or during a hospital stay. **Selecting this category will have no effect on your exception outcome.**

8. Submit your application. Make sure to print a copy of the application showing that it was accepted for your records.

References:

https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/exception-applications