

# SAFER GUIDES REQUIREMENTS

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Eligible hospitals and CAHs are required to attest “yes” or “no” to completing an annual self assessment using all nine [SAFER Guides](#) to satisfy the program requirement.

### Foundational Guides

- [High Priority Practices](#)
- [Organizational Responsibilities](#)

### Infrastructure Guides

- [Contingency Planning](#)
- [System Configuration](#)
- [System Interfaces](#)

### Clinical Process Guides

- [Patient Identification](#)
- [Computerized Provider Order Entry with Decision Support](#)
- [Test Results Reporting and Follow-Up](#)
- [Clinician Communication](#)

## REPORTING

The SAFER Guides self-assessment for eligible hospitals and CAHs needs to be completed by the final day of the EHR reporting period (Dec 31) for the designated program year.

Note: The self-assessment can be completed outside of the 90-day reporting period for the program’s other requirements.

## PARTICIPANTS

Eligible hospitals and CAHs participating in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program.

## ATTESTATION

Attesting “yes” signifies a participant has completed the annual self-assessment. Attesting “no” signifies a participant has not completed the annual self-assessment. Both answers are acceptable. Leaving the SAFER Guides measure attestation blank (e.g., N/A) will result in a score of 0.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [2023 Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Specification Sheets](#)

## MIPS PROMOTING INTEROPERABILITY PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

VS

## MEDICARE PROMOTING INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAM

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is continuing its focus on the advancement and safe use of certified electronic health record (EHR) technology (CEHRT). As part of this initiative, CMS recently added the Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) Guides measure to the Protect Patient Health Information objective across the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) and the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Promoting Interoperability performance category for eligible clinicians.

**The SAFER Guides are a set of self-assessment tools aimed at helping healthcare organizations evaluate their EHR safety practices, identify potential risks, and mitigate those risks. Each SAFER Guide includes a self-assessment checklist, action-based worksheets, and recommended best practices that are designed to help your organization reduce EHR-related patient safety risk, optimize safe use of EHRs, and create a “culture of safety”.**

## WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR HELP

Eligible hospitals and CAHs participating in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program: contact the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) help desk for assistance at [Qnetsupport@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Qnetsupport@cms.hhs.gov) or 1-866-288-8912, Monday through Friday, 8 AM-8 PM ET.

Eligible clinicians participating in the Quality Payment Program: contact the Quality Payment Program Service Center at 1-866-288-8292 (TRS 711), Monday through Friday, 8 AM-8 PM ET or by email at: [QPP@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:QPP@cms.hhs.gov).

Customers who are hearing impaired: dial 711 to connect to a TRS Communications Assistant.

## REQUIREMENTS

MIPS eligible clinicians must report “yes” or “no” to completing an annual self-assessment using only the [High Priority Practices](#) SAFER Guide to satisfy the requirement.

## REPORTING

The SAFER Guide self-assessment for MIPS eligible clinicians needs to be completed by the final day of the performance period (Dec 31) for the designated performance year.

Note: The self-assessment can be completed outside of the 90-day reporting period for the performance category’s other requirements.

## PARTICIPANTS

[MIPS eligible clinicians](#).

## DATA SUBMISSION

Reporting “yes” signifies a participant has completed the annual self-assessment. Reporting “no” signifies a participant has not completed the annual self-assessment. Both answers are acceptable. Leaving the SAFER Guides measure submission blank (e.g., N/A) will result in a score of 0.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [2023 MIPS Specification Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [MIPS SAFER Guides Fact Sheet](#)

