

Since 2015 Medicare has included a quality performance program called MIPS (merit based incentive system), which allows for added payment OR penalty of up to 9% of annual payments to ARI. This rewards practices with high quality metrics and penalizes those with lower performance metrics (making the cost awash for CMS). My estimate is that this could be up to \$1M swing for ARI. For every year of this program so far, ARI has been able to get an exemption, but we must participate in 2023.

In order to help in our effort to achieve high performance, ARI has contracted with an organization called Velero. Cost is 16k/year, which includes a money back guarantee if we are hit with a penalty.

The program is very complicated (of course) but this is what I understand so far. Also, these quality measures below have been discussed in prior emails and board meeting notes, so this should mostly serve as a reminder.

The quality measures that ARI will be monitoring and using for 2023 MIPS submission include:

1. **#145 - Fluoroscopy exposure** - Document in report $Ka,r = xx \text{ mGy}$.
2. **#147 - Nuclear bone scan** - Document in report that correlation was made with prior relevant imaging studies.
3. **#364 - Incidental pulmonary nodule** - Document appropriate incidental nodule Fleischner guideline for followup in CT reports. Must state in report the word "incidental."
(E.g. * "Incidental note is made of a lung nodule/lung nodules. [Qualifier: size, comparison, etc.]. Follow-up in # months as per Fleischner based on nodule size and risk factors as outlined below." or "Incidental note is made of a lung nodule measuring [size]. No additional imaging is necessary at this time for the incidental findings of lung nodule(s), based on the patient's risk factor."
4. **#406 - Incidental <1cm thyroid nodule** detected on CT or MR - Statement of no follow up required. Must state in report the word "incidental." (ACR also includes modification of no follow up when <1.5cm when over age 35)
5. **#436 - Dose reduction technique for CT** - use standard statement in all CT reports, even CT biopsies: Dose reduction was employed with automated exposure control.

Reminder:

Other quality metrics for SUMMA PERFORMANCE BONUS for 2023 include:

1. **Free intraperitoneal air** - CTR reporting to the ordering physician when detected
2. **Incidental lung nodules** - use of Fleischner guidelines. Same as #364 above, except this will be monitored for only incidental lung nodules 8mm or greater
3. **Deauville score** reported for PET/CT for lymphoma

