



**Dear Radiation Oncology (RO) Model Participant,**

On October 21, 2020, CMS announced its intent to delay the RO Model start date to July 1, 2021 through rulemaking. This delay is included in the 2021 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment (OPPS) Final Rule (CMS-1736-FC) as an interim final rule with comment period (CMS-1736-IFC).

As a result of the delay, there will be the following changes to the RO Model:

- The first performance year (PY) will be from July 1, 2021-December 31, 2021.
- The Model performance period will be 4.5 years.
- We expect the RO Model will qualify as an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) and a Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) APM under the CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP) beginning in PY2.
- Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) will be a requirement starting in PY2.
- The individual practitioner list (IPL) will still be required in PY1, but it will only be used for QPP in PY1 to assign an automatic 50 percent score for the Improvement Activity performance category in MIPS for RO participants.
- RO participants must, beginning in PY2, collect quality measures data from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022 and submit in March 2023. As quality measures are not being collected until PY2 there will be no quality withhold for PY1.
- The collection period for clinical data elements (CDEs) will begin on January 1, 2022. The first submission of the clinical data elements for January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 will be due in July 2022.
- A CMS-approved contractor will administer the CAHPS® Cancer Care Survey for Radiation Therapy beginning in October 2021 instead of April 2021.

Additionally, the RO Model Billing Webinar scheduled for December 4, 2020 has been postponed until January 13, 2021. The call-in information for the webinar can be found here: <https://innovation.cms.gov/webinars-and-forums/ro-model-billing-webinar>.

We have released an updated version of the FAQs to reflect these changes. This can be found here: <https://innovation.cms.gov/media/document/ro-model-faqs>.

If your questions are not answered in the FAQs, please send them to [RadiationTherapy@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:RadiationTherapy@cms.hhs.gov).

For additional information about the model, please visit the [Radiation Oncology \(RO\) Model web page](#).

**Thank you,  
The Radiation Oncology Model Helpdesk**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has sent this update. To contact Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) go to our [contact us](#) page.

Questions?

Radiation Oncology Model Website: [https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/radiation-  
oncology-model](https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/radiation-oncology-model)

Contact RO Model Helpdesk at [RadiationTherapy@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:RadiationTherapy@cms.hhs.gov) or call us at 1-844-711-2664 (Option 5) from 8:30 AM to 7:30 PM ET.