The recently enacted Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) will have long-term effects on your compensation. From 2015 through 2018, physicians may continue to be hit with penalties if they do not participate in the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) or meaningful use or if they have a low value-based modifier value. The Merit-based Incentive Program (MIPS) will contain elements of these existing programs, so neurologists who want to prepare for the future should familiarize themselves with these programs and participate now.

The 0.5-percent payment updates are stable annual increases through the end of 2019. In January 2019, additional adjustments begin to hit due to participation in either MIPS or alternate payment models (APMs). The lowest penalty in 2019 will be -4 percent for failing to successfully participate in MIPS. The bonus for participation in MIPS is 4 percent, with the potential for a bonus for the top performers, which could bring the incentive to as high as 12 percent.

For successful participation in an APM, neurologists may be able to earn a 5-percent lump-sum bonus.

For more information, visit AAN.com/practice/medicare-payment-reform.