



CMS Medicare FFS Provider e-News

CMS Information for the Medicare Fee-For-Service Provider Community

CMS asks that you share the following important information with all of your association members and State and local chapters. Thank you!

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In last week's e-News issue, I shared with you that we'd be moving to a new weekly schedule and that, beginning soon, the e-News would be released on Tuesdays going forward. Well, that time has come, so here's your first Tuesday e-News.

It's my hope that this latest step forward for the Agency's outreach and communications efforts will make all of your jobs easier by putting the most important, reliable, and valuable news, announcements, and updates in your hands (and mailboxes) earlier in the week.

Because of the overlap of schedules and having sent an e-News at the end of last week, today's issue is a little shorter than normal. Beginning next Tuesday, you'll see things return a bit to normal.

Until then, all my best—

Robin

The e-News for the week of Tue Apr 12 includes...

MEETINGS AND CALLS

- [Special Open-Door Forum: Presentation and Listening Session on Hospital Wage Index Reform \[Tue Apr 12\]](#)
- [Special Open-Door Forum: Physician Quality Reporting System and E-Prescribing \(eRx\) Incentive Program Success Stories \[Thu Apr 14\]](#)
- [National Provider Call on 2011 Physician Quality Reporting System & eRx Incentive Program \[Tue Apr 19\]](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

- [Reminder: ONC Seeks Public Comment on the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#)

CODE, PRICER, AND CLAIMS UPDATES

- [Corrections to Payments for Certain Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction Claims](#)

Special Open-Door Forum: Presentation and Listening Session on Hospital Wage Index Reform [\[↑\]](#)

Tue Apr 12, 1:30-3pm ET

Section 3137(b) of the *Affordable Care Act* requires CMS to submit to Congress, by Sat Dec 31, a report that includes a plan to reform the wage index under the Medicare hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS). CMS acquired the services of Acumen, LLC to assist in its study of the wage index. During the first part of this special open-door forum, Acumen will present its concept of an alternative methodology for the wage index; the second part will be a listening session, during which CMS would like to hear from you regarding your opinions about Acumen's concept, as well as any suggestions on alternative methods for computing the wage index.

Special Open-Door Forum Participation Instructions:

- Dial 800-837-1935 and use conference ID #50101623
- Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the hearing-impaired; for TTY services, dial 7-1-1 or 800-855-2880 and a Relay Communications Assistant will help

A more complete participation announcement, including instructions for submitting written comments, is available at <http://www.CMS.gov/OpenDoorForums/Downloads/041211SODFIPPS.pdf>.

Special Open-Door Forum: Physician Quality Reporting System and E-Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program Success Stories [\[↑\]](#)

Thu Apr 14, 2:30-3:30pm ET

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will host a Special Open-Door Forum on the 2011 Physician Quality Reporting System (previously known as the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative or PQRI) and E-Prescribing (eRx) Incentive programs. This Special Open-Door Forum will include:

- Physician Reporting and E-Prescribing Success Stories, with presentations from:
 - Dr Sobel, Physician with Crossroads Internal Medicine, Owings Mills, MD
 - Dr O'Dell, Physician with Truman Medical Centers, Kansas City, MO
 - Jud Neal, President and CEO of Physician's Business Network, Kansas City, MO
- Success stories on:
 - Practice Description
 - Years of Experience
 - Implementation of the Physician Quality Reporting and E-Prescribing Incentive Programs
 - Lessons Learned
- Q&A with CMS subject matter experts

Remember: Be sure to use the correct 2011 Physician Quality Reporting Measure Specifications, as these documents are updated from year to year:

- 2011 Physician Quality Reporting Measure Specifications for Claims and Registry Reporting of Individual Measures
- 2011 Physician Quality Reporting Measures Groups Specifications
- 2011 Physician Quality Reporting EHR Measure Specifications
- 2011 Physician Quality Reporting GPRO I Narrative Measure Specifications

Special Open-Door Forum Participation Instructions:

- Dial 800-837-1935 and use conference ID #44767416
- Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the hearing-impaired; for TTY services, dial 7-1-1 or 800-855-2880 and a Relay Communications Assistant will help
- An audio recording and transcript of this call will be posted to the Special Open-Door Forum website at http://www.CMS.gov/OpenDoorForums/05_ODF_SpecialODF.asp and will be accessible for downloading beginning on or around Fri May 13

National Provider Call on 2011 Physician Quality Reporting System & eRx Incentive Program [[↑](#)]

Tue Apr 19, 1:30-3pm EDT

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Provider Communications Group will host a national provider conference call on the 2011 Physician Quality Reporting System and Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program. The Physician Quality Reporting System is voluntary quality reporting program that provides an incentive payment to identified individual eligible professionals (EPs) and group practices that satisfactorily report data on quality measures for covered Physician Fee Schedule services furnished to Medicare Part-B Fee-For-Service beneficiaries; the Physician Quality Reporting System (formerly known as PQRI) was first implemented in 2007 as a result of section 101 of the *Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA)* and further expanded as a result of the *Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (MMSEA)*, and the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA)*. The eRx Incentive Program is an incentive program for eligible professionals initially implemented in 2009 as a result of section 132(b) of *MIPPA*; the eRx Incentive Program promotes the adoption and use of eRx systems by individual eligible professionals and group practices.

Agenda:

- Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program Payment Adjustment; and
- Q & A with CMS Physician Quality Reporting System and eRx subject matter experts

A PowerPoint slide presentation will be posted to the Physician Quality Reporting System webpage at http://www.CMS.gov/PQRS/04_CMSSponsoredCalls.asp for you to download prior to the call so that you can follow along with the presenter. Educational products are available on the Physician Quality Reporting System and the eRx Incentive Program at <http://www.CMS.gov/PQRS> and <http://www.CMS.gov/eRxIncentive>, respectively; feel free to download the resources prior to the call so that you may ask questions of the CMS presenters.

In order to receive the call-in information, you must register for the call. Note that if you are planning to sit in with a group, only one person needs to register to receive the call-in information. Also note that, if you plan to request continuing education credit from your professional organization and if this organization requires proof of registration, you will need to personally register so that you receive a confirmatory email.

Registration will close at 1:30pm EDT on Mon Apr 18 or when available space has been filled; no exceptions will be made, so please register early. To register for the call:

- Visit <http://www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/041911>.
- Fill in all required information and click "Register."
- You will be taken to the "Thank you for registering" page and will receive a confirmation email shortly thereafter. Please save this page, in the event that your server blocks the confirmation emails. (If you do not receive the confirmation email, please check your spam/junk mail filter as it may have been directed there.)
- If assistance for hearing impaired services is needed, the request must be sent to medicare.ttt@palmettogba.com no later than 3 business days before the event.

For those of who will be unable to attend, a written and audio transcript of the call will be available at least one week after the call at <http://www.CMS.gov/PQRS>.

Reminder: ONC Seeks Public Comment on the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan [[↑](#)]

The Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's strategy for realizing Congress and the Administration's Health IT agenda, which was developed in coordination with other Federal partners, is now available for public comment. The comment period for the "[Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2011-2015](#)" is open through Fri Apr 22, 11:59pm EDT. ONC encourages and welcomes all comments from the public regarding the Plan. Visit the [Health IT Buzz Blog](#) to read and comment on the Plan. (Please note, comments must be submitted via this blog post.)

Corrections to Payments for Certain Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction Claims [[↑](#)]

It has been brought to the attention of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that the Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) is taking the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) on claims regardless of whether the services were provided on the same day. As a result of this coding error, any therapy claims with dates of service on or after Sat Jan 1, 2011, processed from Mon Jan 3 through Sun Feb 6, with one of the specified therapy codes in Change Request #7050 were processed incorrectly. System changes were successfully implemented on Mon Feb 7, and CMS has instructed Medicare contractors to adjust claims that processed incorrectly.

CMS has also learned that the FISS was using a rate file which contains rates that reflect a 20% reduction rather than the 25% reduction that is appropriate for institutional claims. As a result of this error, all therapy services subject to the MPPR with dates of service on or after Sat Jan 1 have been paid incorrect amounts. Medicare contractors will install a corrected rate file in early May, and CMS has instructed Medicare contractors to adjust claims that were paid incorrectly no later than Thu June 30.

More Helpful Links...

Check out CMS on



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The Medicare Learning Network

www.CMS.gov/MLNGenInfo

Archive of Provider e-News Messages

www.CMS.gov/FFSProvPartProg/EmailArchive

