

**MOA MEMBERS
FROM SUE A. WEINGARTNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JULY 12, 2010**

MEDICARE UPDATE

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- 1. Frequently Asked Questions and Answers re NPI (what is it, who needs one, how to apply, etc.), PECOS, EHR's and more:**

<http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/>

- 2. It's Not Too Late To Participate in the 2010 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)**

It is not too late to start participating in the 2010 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and potentially qualify to receive incentive payments. A new six month reporting period begins on July 1, 2010.

The 2010 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) has two reporting periods: 12-months (January 1-December 31, 2010) and 6-months (July 1-December 31, 2010). For 2010, eligible professionals (EPs) who satisfactorily report PQRI measures for the 6-month reporting period will become eligible to receive a PQRI incentive equal to 2.0% of their total Medicare Part B allowed charges for services performed during the reporting period.

If you have not participated in the PQRI program, you can begin by reporting PQRI data for July 1-December 31, 2010 using any of the following four options:

- **Claims-based reporting of individual measures for 80% or more** of applicable patients on **at least 3 individual measures** or **on each measure if less than 3 measures** apply
- **Claims-based reporting of one measures group for 80% or more** of applicable Medicare Part B FFS patients of each EP (with a *minimum of 8 patients*)
- **Registry-based reporting of at least 3 individual PQRI measures for 80% or more** of applicable Medicare Part B FFS patients of each EP
- **Registry-based reporting of one measures group for 80% or more** of applicable Medicare Part B FFS patients of each EP (with a *minimum of 8 patients*)

PQRI claims-based reporting involves the addition of quality-data codes (QDC) to claims submitted for services when billing Medicare Part B. EPs also have the option of using a qualified registry to assist in collecting PQRI measure data. The registry will submit this quality data directly to Medicare, eliminating the need for adding QDCs to the Medicare Part B claim.

Eligible professionals do not need to sign up or pre-register to participate in the 2010 PQRI. Submission of QDCs for individual PQRI measures to CMS through a qualified registry or for a measures group through claims or a qualified registry will indicate intent to participate.

Although there is no requirement to register prior to submitting the data, there are some preparatory steps that EPs should take prior to undertaking PQRI reporting. CMS has created many educational products that provide information about how to get started with PQRI reporting. To access all available educational resources on PQRI please visit, <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/> on the CMS website. Eligible professionals are encouraged to visit the PQRI webpage often for the latest information and downloads on PQRI.

Resources

- *2010 PQRI Implementation Guide* at http://www.cms.gov/PQRI/Downloads/2010_PQRI_ImplementationGuide_02-10-2010_FINAL.pdf
Qualified Registries for 2010 PQRI Reporting at http://www.cms.gov/PQRI/20_AlternativeReportingMechanisms.asp

3. 2010 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative & Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program: National Provider Call with Question & Answer Session

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Provider Communications Group will host a national provider conference call on the 2010 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program (eRx). This toll-free call will take place from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., EDT, on Tuesday, July 20, 2010.

The PQRI is voluntary quality reporting program that provides an incentive payment to identified individual eligible professionals (EPs), and beginning with the 2010 PQRI, group practices who satisfactorily report data on quality measures for covered Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) services furnished to Medicare Part B Fee-For-Service (FFS) beneficiaries.

The 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 the MIPPA. The eRx Incentive Program promotes the adoption and use of eRx systems by individual eligible professionals (and beginning with the 2010 eRx Incentive Program, group practices).

Following a few program announcements and updates, the lines will be opened to allow participants to ask questions of CMS PQRI and eRx subject matter experts.

Educational products are available on the PQRI dedicated web page located at, <http://www.cms.gov/PQRI> , on the CMS website, in the Educational Resources section, *as well as educational products are available on the eRx dedicated web page located at <http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive> on the CMS website.* Feel free to download the resources prior to the call so that you may ask questions of the CMS presenters.

Conference call details:

Date: July 20, 2010

Conference Title: Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) - National Provider Call

Time: 3:00 p.m. EDT

In order to receive the call-in information, you must register for the call. It is important to note that if you are planning to sit in with a group, only one person needs to register to receive the call-in data. This registration is solely to reserve a phone line, NOT to allow participation. **Registration will close at 3:00 p.m. EDT on July 19, 2010, or when available space has been filled.** No exceptions will be made, so please be sure to register prior to this time.

1. To register for the call participants need to go to:
<http://www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/072010>
2. Fill in all required data.
3. Verify that your time zone is displayed correctly in the drop down box.
4. Click "Register".
5. You will be taken to the "Thank you for registering" page and will receive a confirmation e-mail shortly thereafter. **Note:** Please print and save this page, in the event your server blocks the confirmation emails. If you do not receive the confirmation e-mail, please check your spam/junk mail filter as it may have been directed there.
6. If assistance for hearing impaired services is needed the request must be sent to medicare.ttt@palmettogba.com no later than 3 business day before the event.

For those of who will be unable to attend, a transcript and MP3 file of the call will be available at least one week after the call at <http://www.cms.gov/pqri> on the CMS website.

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