

Pay for Reporting



Reporting clinical data could net you up to a 4 percent incentive from Medicare.

In December 2006, President Bush signed the Tax Relief and Health Care Act (TRHCA) authorizing the establishment of a physician quality reporting system by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) known as the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI).

PQRI establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality reporting program.

Eligible professionals who successfully report quality measures on claims may earn an incentive equivalent to 1.5 percent of total allowed charges for covered Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) services.

CMS is committed to becoming an active purchaser of high quality, efficient healthcare.

The PQRI program is an important step toward the transformation of purchasing based on the value, rather than just the volume, of services furnished.

CMS is also developing and implementing pay-for-performance for multiple types of healthcare providers to encourage the provision of high-quality, cost-effective care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Incentive

Reporting for PQRI began in 2007 and has been extended for two additional years (2009 to 2010), according to the official Medicare industry publication, *Inside CMS* June 12, 2008 issue.

Participants can join at any time, but in this instance, time really is money for those who report data at the beginning of the year. Those who do report early, will be eligible for bonus payments totalling the entire year.

If you decide to participate at any other time within the

year, the bonus payment will be based upon the total billing for data reported.

To make reporting data more enticing to providers, CMS is increasing the PQRI bonus payment to 2 percent and offering an additional 2 percent in payment for e-prescribing in 2009.

Reporting Data

There is still time to participate in PQRI for 2008 and earn 1.5 percent of your total Medicare Fee for Service billings for July 1 to Dec. 31, 2008.

You do not have to sign up to participate. Participation in PQRI requires nothing more than simply sending the appropriate billing codes through your claims on four clinically related measure groups:

- Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
- Preventive Care
- End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
- Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Each of the measure groups contains at least four PQRI measures and may be reported through claims-based or registry-based data submission. You must report these measures within the selected measure groups on claims for 15 consecutive diabetic Medicare patients.

Eligible professionals who submit measures through claims-based submission or alternate methods of reporting will be eligible to receive one incentive payment based on the longest reporting period for which the measures reporting applies provided they meet the requirements for satisfactory reporting.

Visit www.qsource.org and click on "Clinical Topics" for more information about PQRI.