

## Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). For an overview of the program, please view the Quick Tip entitled "PQRI." The following message is designed to give providers and their staff resources for answering PQRI questions.

The primary resource we would like to discuss is the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) PQRI Website. The Website is located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> and is the primary location for CMS to dispense information to the provider community.

Let's take a look at this site. The overview page provides a description of PQRI and a starting point for moving through a variety of different resources and is also the first link on the left-hand navigation column.

The second link in the left-hand navigation column is "CMS Sponsored Calls." The link provides transcripts and recordings of the CMS PQRI calls. By scrolling down to the area entitled "Downloads," you can click on a link for the transcripts or continue to scroll down to the heading "Related links Inside CMS" and listen to the actual calls. The calls and transcripts will help you understand what other providers are asking and may answer many of your questions.

The third link on the left-hand navigation column is "Statute/Regulations/Program Instructions." The information provided here is a brief overview of the laws that affect PQRI and the different Change Request (CR) sent to the payers providing instruction for program and system set-up. If you scroll down to "Downloads," the laws are available to view in PDF format. Continuing to scroll down will bring you to "Related Links Inside CMS" and you will find links to the CMS PQRI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), the two CRs, and the CMS-1385-P instructions on PQRI.

The fourth link on the left-hand navigation column is "Eligible Professionals" and provides a list of all professionals eligible to receive the 1.5% PQRI bonus payment. By scrolling down to the section entitled "Related Links Inside CMS," you can select two different options: CMS FAQs related to PQRI eligible professionals or all CMS PQRI FAQs.

The fifth link is entitled "Measures/Codes" and provides a brief history of the measures. By scrolling down to "Downloads," you will find the actual measures list, measure specification, and two updates to the previous documents. Providers will need to review the measures list to decide which measures they think will fit within their practice and the specification document for the procedure codes, diagnosis codes, and billing specification for each of the measures. After reviewing the two documents only then can providers decide if a specification will truly be able to be reported for their practice. By scrolling down further providers can access "Related links Inside CMS," which provides links to CMS PQRI Measure and Codes FAQ and a second link for all CMS PQRI FAQ.

The sixth link is entitled "Reporting," and this section provides information on how providers can successfully report under the PQRI program. The Website states, "In order to satisfactorily meet the requirements of the program and receive the bonus payment, certain reporting thresholds must be met. When no more than three quality measures are applicable to services provided by an eligible professional, each such measure must be reported in at least 80% of the cases in which the measure is reportable. When four or more measures are applicable to the services provided by an eligible professional, the 80% threshold must be met on at least three of

the measures reported.” It also indicates how providers can participate in the PQRI program. The Downloads section contains a PDF document about the validation process, and the related links inside CMS contains links to CMS PQRI Reporting FAQs and all CMS PQRI FAQs.

The seventh link, entitled “Analysis and Payment,” contains a small amount of information on reporting analysis and 2007 PQRI payments. It does confirm that the PQRI bonus will pay to the taxpayer identification number and not the individual when the provider is a member of a group. In the related links inside CMS section, on the bottom of the page, links to CMS PQRI Analysis and Payment FAQs and all CMS PQRI FAQs are provided.

The eighth link, entitled “Educational Resources,” is one of the most important for providers to view. The explanation provided on this page helps providers select the correct educational information from the bottom of the page. Read through the descriptions and the scroll down to the section entitled “Downloads.” Here you can download Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Matters Articles, Educational Products, and CMS PQRI PowerPoints. An important resource to look at is under the Educational Products and is entitled “2007 PQRI Data Collection Worksheets.” The worksheets are designed to help in the collection of data for each of the 74 measures. Under the section “Related Links Inside CMS” you can sign up for CMS Listservs and also find links to CMS PQRI Educational Resources FAQs and all CMS PQRI FAQs.

The ninth link is the “PQRI Toolkit” and provides additional resources for providers to use to make the PQRI easier to understand and use in their everyday practice. Again the page describes the different resources available under the “Downloads” section located on the bottom of the screen. CMS continues to add additional resources for providers to use, so be sure to check this section frequently. Review the descriptions provided and decide which of the resources may help you.

The last link provides information that is currently known about 2008 PQRI program. Continue to check this link if you would like to learn more about the future of PQRI and how it affects providers in their practices.

The CMS PQRI FAQs are an important and often overlooked resource for providers. Please review these FAQs frequently, as CMS uses them to answer questions posed to them by providers and contractors. The questions provide clarification and are a valuable resource to everyone on PQRI.

WPS Medicare also has a Website dedicated to PQRI information. The Website is available at <http://www.wpsmedicare.com/provider/pvrp.shtml> and highlights articles, links, and additional information providers need to know about the PQRI program.

So in conclusion, if you have questions and want to find the answers start by taking a look at both the CMS PQRI Website and the WPS Medicare PQRI Website. The answers to most PQRI questions are located on these two Websites. Remember that both CMS and WPS Medicare offer free teleconferences on the PQRI program, so watch the Websites for the most current times and dates. Thank you.