

PQRI Overview

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) Medicare are committed to making sure providers have the most recent information available on the PQRI program. This presentation is an overview of the 2007 PQRI program.

The 2007 PQRI program is a statute based program from the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. The program is voluntary for eligible providers paid under the Physician Fee Schedule. For a list of eligible providers, please visit the Website on the screen to my left.

CMS is moving the Medicare program from a passive purchaser to an active purchaser of health care services and is encouraging its beneficiaries to become active purchasers. Let me explain the difference. A passive purchaser does not research the service or product they purchase, they continue to go to the same place or buy the same product. An active purchaser does research on products and services. They use Websites, books, discussions, and any other resources available to decide which products or services to purchase. The PQRI program is the first step in helping Medicare and its beneficiaries to become active purchasers.

The 2007 PQRI program is for claims with dates of service 7/1/07 through 12/31/07 and submitted to the Carrier by 2/29/2008. CMS anticipates the PQRI program will continue in 2008 and beyond. For the most current information and information on the future of PQRI visit the CMS PQRI Website. The Website is <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri> and a link is provided in the links section of this presentation.

Providers successfully reporting will receive up to a 1.5 percent bonus payment for all services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Providers who have one to three measures that apply to their practice will need to report on all applicable measures 80 percent of the time. Providers who have four or more measures will need to report 3 measures 80 percent of the time. The 80 percent reporting criteria is based on the individual providers National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, while the payment will be made to the Tax-Identification Number (TIN) where claims payment is sent. The bonus payments will be available sometime in mid-2008 and at the same time providers can request confidential reports of what they have submitted through this program. The TIN entity will need to decide how the bonus amount would be distributed.

The CMS Website is the primary location for information on the 2007 PQRI program. The Website has the quality measures, coding instructions, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and transcriptions or replays of the CMS PQRI sponsored calls. The Website is frequently updated, so make sure you become a frequent visitor.

Together we will review a few important areas of the CMS PQRI Website located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri>

The "Measures/Codes" link is the fifth link located in the left hand navigation bar. Providers need to review the measures to decide how to report on the 2007 PQRI program. The actual measures are located in a PDF document on the bottom of the screen under the "Downloads" section. The 74 measures, located on the first link, describe the basic information and are the starting place for all providers to decide which measures may work in their practice. The

second link provides the specifications. The specifications contain Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes, diagnosis codes, and other requirements for all 74 measures. The third and fourth links are the measures specification updates.

After providers decide on their measures, the CPT code for the procedure provided and PQRI CPT codes must be billed on the same claim to count in the data analysis. The codes will be placed on two separate lines, and submitted to the carrier. If the PQRI code is submitted on its own, or with an incorrect modifier it will not count in the data analysis.

The "Education Resources" is another important area to continue to review. CMS has provided a variety of different resources for providers and their staff to educate themselves. The first section describes the different resources available to download. Read through the descriptions and then move to the "Downloads" section for the links to view this information.

For a complete review of the CMS PQRI Website, watch the Quick Tip entitled "PQRI Resources."

CMS has published multiple PQRI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on their website. The direct link to the FAQs is <http://questions.cms.hhs.gov> and it displays all FAQs. We recommend entering "PQRI" in the search field; this will display only the questions and answers related to PQRI. Providers should review the FAQs often; CMS uses this area to answer questions submitted by both providers and carriers related to 2007 PQRI program.

WPS Medicare also has a Website dedicated to PQRI. The Website address is <http://www.wpsmedicare.com/provider/pvrp.shtml> and it contains updates, articles, and links for additional information providers will need to successfully report on the 2007 PQRI program.

Medicare encourages providers to look at this program. There is a lot of information available, and more being added everyday. CMS feels this is a good program and one your offices should be able to implement without difficulty.

Thank you for your time.