

PQRS Assistance

Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Incentive Program

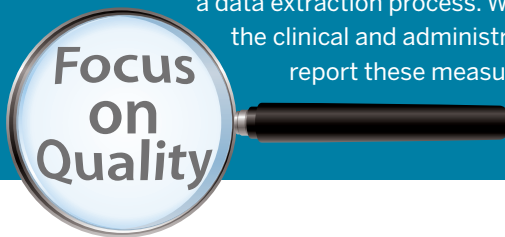
About PQRS

PQRS was implemented by CMS to encourage a delivery of care that follows evidence-based quality guidelines for improved healthcare at lower costs.

Individual eligible professionals who meet the criteria for satisfactory submission of PQRS quality measures qualify to earn an incentive payment equal to 0.5% of their total estimated Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) services allowed during that same reporting period.

HealthTronics® PQRS Help

Let our team help you take full advantage of the PQRS incentive. HealthTronics simplifies PQRS individual measure reporting by utilizing a certified registry and a data extraction process. With our assistance, you can minimize the clinical and administrative resources needed to otherwise report these measures.



PQRS Incentive

The 2006 Tax Relief and Health Care Act (TRHCA) established a voluntary physician quality reporting system that awards incentive payments to Eligible Professionals (EPs) who satisfactorily report data on quality measures for covered professional services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries. Allowed charges paid according to the Medicaid Physician Fee Schedule are eligible for the incentive payment.

EPs may choose to participate in the PQRS incentive program in addition to the Medicare/Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program.

What are the incentive payments and payment adjustments for PQRS?

EPs who satisfactorily report on PQRS measures will earn an incentive payment based on a percentage of their total estimated Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) allowed charges.

- EPs who sign up and report PQRS data for 2012 will receive an incentive payment in 2013. (0.5% of 2012 Medicare allowable charges under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.)

- EPs who sign up and report PQRS data for 2013 will receive an incentive payment in 2014. (0.5% of 2013 Medicare allowable charges.)

- EPs not reporting PQRS data for 2013 will incur a payment adjustment for 2015 Medicare Part B PFS payments (-1.5%).

- The payment adjustment increases to -2% in 2016 and beyond.

Simplifying PQRS for Your Practice

Who is eligible to participate in PQRS?

The PQRS Program defines an EP as:

- Physicians, defined as a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, a doctor of oral surgery or dental medicine, a doctor of podiatric medicine, a doctor of optometry, or a chiropractor;
- Practitioners, defined as a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist and anesthesiologist assistant, certified nurse midwife, clinical social worker, clinical psychologist, registered dietician, nutrition professional, or audiologist; and
- Therapists defined as a physical therapist, occupational therapist, or qualified speech language therapist.

What are the data requirements?

EPs must submit data on the PQRS measures applicable to their specialty field for at least 80% of their Medicare Fee For Service patients. Please note that these requirements are subject to change on an annual basis.

HealthTronics extracts data on three measures and uploads to the registry. The registry performs a series of validation checks. If anything is missing or invalid, there is opportunity to correct the data.

When is payment received?

Incentive payments are received in the September/October time frame after submission in January/February.



What are the time frames for PQRS?

EPs who report individual measures through a registry provide data on a calendar year basis. Information for calendar year 2012 will be reported January/February 2013.

The PQRS incentive payments are available until 2014. Beginning in 2015, EPs who do not satisfactorily report PQRS measures will be subject to payment adjustments.

Contact Us

To learn more about our PQRS assistance, call 417-708-0748 or email susan.mcmurray@healthtronics.com.

Source: www.cms.gov/pqrs

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