

2011 Individual Physician QRURs

Understanding How PQRS Data are Used In Your Quality Scores

Exhibit 1 of the PY2011 Individual Quality and Resource Use Report (QRUR) summarizes information you reported about the patients you cared for as part of the 2011 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) via registries, claims, or electronic health records. The exhibit displays a physician's own performance on a quality or cost measure compared to the average (mean) performance across all physicians included in the peer group. For PQRS quality measures, the peer group comprises all incentive-eligible PQRS participants nationwide who successfully reported the specific quality measure to CMS.

For each physician participating in PQRS, the first two reported columns of Exhibit 1 of the QRUR provide the number of patients or cases identified by the physician as eligible for inclusion in each measure reported, as well as the performance rate for that measure. **The data displayed in the QRUR may not exactly match the data submitted by the physician to PQRS.** This difference may be attributed to multiple records for an individual physician in the PQRS system. In some cases, the PQRS data may include multiple records for the same physician because the physician reported under multiple carriers. In addition, the data may include multiple records for the same physician under the same carrier. As a result, a selection algorithm is implemented:

1. The first step is to select the best record for a given physician under each carrier. Best record is defined as the record with the highest performance rate. If there are records with the identical high performance rates, the highest performance rate with the largest denominator is used.
2. Then, if that physician filed under multiple carriers, we compute a ratio of record denominators and numerators to calculate a single rate for the physician for each measure. To do this we sum the performance denominators to create an all-carrier performance denominator; similarly sum the numerators. Compute the all-carrier performance rate as the ratio of the all-carrier performance numerator to the all-carrier performance denominator, expressed as a 0-100% scale.

In addition to including the physician's individual performance, the QRUR includes information on the performance of all PQRS participants nationwide. **This peer group information may not exactly match the 2011 PQRS report.** For the 2011 QRUR, each peer group physician's performance included in the peer group mean is weighted by the number of his/her beneficiaries eligible for the measure, giving less weight in this benchmark to those with fewer cases.

The Individual Physician Methodology Report can be accessed at:
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeedbackProgram/Downloads/PY2011-QRUR-Methods.pdf>