

MLN Connects™ National Provider Call
2015 Medicare PFS Proposals for PQRS, Value Modifier, EHR Incentive Program, and the Physician
Compare Website
July 24, 2014

1. 2013 Incentive Payments for PQRS and eRx Programs

CMS is pleased to announce that the 2013 incentive payments for PQRS will be distributed in August 2014. The 2013 eRx incentive payments will be distributed in September 2014. Additionally, there will also be a 2012 PQRS supplemental payment distributed in October. Feedback reports for 2013 PQRS and eRx will be available this fall.

If you have additional questions regarding incentive payment distribution, please contact your respective Medicare Administrative Carrier. Questions regarding the payment amount can be directed to the QualityNet Help Desk at 1-866-288-6222.

2. Review 2012 Supplemental Quality Resource Use Reports (QRURs)

CMS made available confidential Program Year (PY) 2012 Supplemental Quality and Resource Use Reports (QRURs) to group practices with 100 or more EPs that received group 2012 QRURs in the fall of 2013. The PY 2012 Supplemental QRURs continue to build on CMS's ongoing research to construct episodes of care ("episodes"), which are comprised of Medicare payments for clinically related services provided to Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries.

These PY 2012 Supplemental QRURs provide medical group practices with summary level and detailed drill down information on payment-standardized, risk-adjusted clinical episodes of care that are attributed to the medical group, including information about Medicare providers who care for the patient during the episode both inside and outside the medical group.

The 2012 Supplemental QRURs are for informational purposes only and complement the quality and per capita cost information provided in the 2012 QRURs. The information contained in the 2012 Supplemental QRURs does not affect Medicare payment and is not part of the value-based payment modifier (VBM) under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

We strongly encourage medical group practices with 100 or more eligible professionals (EPs) to access their [PY 2012 Supplemental QRURs](#) using their Individuals Authorized Access to the CMS Computer Services (IACS) User ID and password. A quick reference guide for obtaining an IACS account or modifying an existing account can be found on [Self Nomination/Registration](#) page of the [CMS Physician Feedback / Value Modifier website](#).

Additional Resources

More information on the 2012 Supplemental QRURs can be found on the [Episode Grouping for Medicare and Supplemental Quality and Resource Use Reports \(QRURs\) page](#) of the [CMS Physician Feedback Program /Value Modifier website](#).

CMS will host a National Provider Call on August 13, 2014 from 1:30-3:00pm to discuss the confidential PY 2012 Supplemental QRURs. To register for this call, please access the [MLN Connects™ National Provider Call page](#).

3. Group Practices Can Now Register for Group Practice Reporting Option for 2014 PQRS Participation

Eligible professionals (EPs) who wish to participate in the 2014 PQRS program as a group practice can **now register** for the [group practice reporting option \(GPRO\)](#).

When your group is ready to register, you can access the PV-PQRS Registration System at <https://portal.cms.gov>. You will need to use a valid IACS User ID and password to choose your group's reporting mechanism. The registration system will be open **until September 30** for the 2014 PQRS program.

Additional information about the 2014 GPRO registration and how to register is available on the [Self Nomination/Registration page](#) of the Physician Feedback/Value Modifier website.

Participating as a Group Practice

Group practices participating in the GPRO that satisfactorily report data on PQRS measures during the 2014 reporting period (January 1- December 31) are eligible to earn the 0.5% incentive payment and will avoid the -2% 2016 PQRS payment adjustment.

To earn an incentive for the 2014 PQRS program year and avoid the 2016 PQRS payment adjustment, group practices with 2 or more eligible professionals may register to participate in GPRO via:

- Qualified PQRS registry
- Directly from EHR using certified EHR technology (CEHRT)
- CEHRT via data submission vendor

If your group has 25 or more eligible professionals, you can also participate in GPRO via:

- Web interface (reporting CG CAHPS also required for groups of 100+)
- CG CAHPS via CMS-certified survey vendor (supplement to other PQRS reporting mechanisms)

Value Modifier

In CY 2016, the Value Modifier will apply to groups of physicians with 10 or more eligible professionals and will be based, in part, on their reporting and performance on quality measures in CY 2014. These groups have two ways to participate in the PQRS in CY 2014 in order to avoid the -2.0 percent Value Modifier payment adjustment in CY 2016: group reporting or individual reporting.

Groups that want to report under the PQRS as a group must register to participate in the PQRS group practice reporting option (GPRO) by September 30, 2014 and report successfully to avoid the CY 2016 PQRS payment adjustment and to avoid the -2.0 percent Value Modifier payment adjustment.

Alternatively, groups that want their EPs to report individually under the PQRS must have at least 50 percent of their EPs report successfully to avoid the -2.0 percent Value Modifier payment adjustment.

Groups between 10 and 99 EPs that satisfactorily report PQRS, could qualify for an upward or neutral payment adjustment in 2016 under the Value Modifier based on their performance on quality and cost measures in 2014. For groups of 100 or more EPs that satisfactorily report PQRS in 2014, the Value Modifier could provide an upward, neutral or downward payment adjustment based on their performance on quality and cost measures in 2016.

For more Information about the Value Modifier, please visit the [Value Modifier page](#) on the [Physician Feedback/Value Modifier website](#).

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Additional Resources

For more information about how to participate in the 2014 PQRS program through the GPRO, review the [2014 PQRS GPRO Requirements](#) document.

For questions about how to register, contact the Quality Net Help Desk at 1-866-288-8912 (TTY: 1-877-715-6222), or by email: Qnetsupport@sdps.org.