

November 20, 2012 Announcements for National Provider Call

2011 PQRS Feedback Reports and Informal Review

The 2011 PQRS feedback reports are currently available. TIN-level reports can be downloaded through the Physician and Other Health Care Professionals Quality Reporting Portal at <http://www.qualitynet.org/pqrs>. NPI-level reports can be obtained by submitting a feedback report request through the Quality Reporting Communication Support Page, located at the same web address. CMS has implemented an informal review process for the 2011 PQRS Program Year. This means that eligible professionals can request their PQRS reporting performance be reviewed if their feedback report reveals that they were not found eligible for a 2011 PQRS incentive payment but they believe that an incentive payment was earned. Please review the [2011 PQRS Informal Review Made Simple](#) educational document on the PQRS website for additional information on how to request a 2011 PQRS Informal Review.

New Hardship Exemptions for the 2013 eRx Payment Adjustment

On November 1, CMS finalized two new electronic prescribing (eRx) significant hardship exemption categories pertaining to the EHR Medicare and Medicaid Incentive Program in the 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Rule.

These hardship exemptions categories are:

- Eligible professionals who achieve meaningful use during certain eRx timeframes. For the 2013 eRx payment adjustment, this will include any eligible professional who achieved meaningful use during January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 and has attested to this by January 31, 2013.
- Eligible professionals who demonstrate intent to participate in the EHR Incentive Program and adoption of Certified EHR Technology by registering for the EHR Incentive Program by January 31, 2013.

Please note: EHR Incentive Program participants must provide their entire EHR Certification Number in the CMS EHR Certification ID field during registration to receive this hardship.

Re-Opened Communication Support Page

CMS would like to remind eligible professionals that the Quality Reporting Communication Support Page was re-opened on November 1, 2012 to allow individual eligible professionals and CMS-selected group practices the opportunity to request a significant hardship exemption for the 2013 eRx payment adjustment. Significant hardship requests should be submitted via the Communication Support Page on or between November 1, 2012 and January 31, 2013. **Please note that this is for the 2013 eRx payment adjustment only.**

2013 EHR Direct Vendor Qualified Posting

The 2013 Physician Quality Reporting System EHR Direct vendors and their systems have been “qualified” to submit quality data to CMS by eligible professionals for the 2013 PQRS program year. The list of qualified vendors and additional information within the document titled 2013 EHR Direct Vendor Qualified Posting, can be viewed on the PQRS website

2013 Self-Nominations for Entities Submitting Data for the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that program year 2013 self-nominations for entities wishing to submit data for the 2013 PQRS and eRx Incentive Program will be accepted December 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013 via the Quality Reporting Communication Support Page (Communication Support Page) at https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/communications_support_system/234

Self nomination during the 12/1/2012 – 1/31/2013 timeframe is required from the following entities:

- Registries that wish to participate in 2013 PQRS and eRx.
- Electronic Health Record (EHR) data submission vendors that wish to participate in 2013 PQRS and eRx
- Specialty Boards that wish to participate in the 2013 PQRS Maintenance of Certification Incentive Program.

Please note that an Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS) account is required to complete self-nominations through the Communication Support Page for all of the above entities. The Communication Support Page as well as information for assistance with a new or existing IACS account can be found at https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/pqri_home/212

For all PQRS/eRx program related questions and/or help with IACS, contact the QualityNet Help Desk at 866-288-8912 or qnetsupport@sdps.org. The help desk is available Monday through Friday from 7am through 7pm CT.

Additional information about PQRS/eRx program self-nomination and requirements for these entities will be posted on or about November 30, 2012 on the PQRS and eRx Incentive Program websites.

PQRS website - <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/index.html>

eRx Program website - <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/ERxIncentive/index.html>

2013 Self-Nominations for the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that program year 2013 self-nominations from group practices wishing to participate in the 2013 PQRS GPRO will be accepted through the Quality Reporting Communication Support Page (Communication Support Page) at

https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/communications_support_system/234 beginning December 1, 2012 and ending January 31, 2013.

During self-nomination, groups will also have the opportunity to select which method they will report their PQRS data to CMS, either through the GPRO Web-interface or a registry. It is important to note that once a group self-nominates to participate in the 2013 PQRS GPRO, they will not be able opt-out of this reporting selection. As an alternative, group practices wishing to participate in the 2013 PQRS GPRO will have a second opportunity to self-nominate later in calendar year 2013 up until October 15, 2013. However we encourage group practices to make their reporting decision early and self-nominate during the 12/1/2012 – 1/31/2013 timeframe. This will allow additional time to become familiar with the reporting requirements under PQRS GPRO. In addition, those groups wishing to participate in the 2013 Electronic Prescribing (eRx) GPRO must self-nominate during the 12/1/2012 – 1/31/2013 timeframe and groups may find it beneficial to participate in both the PQRS and eRx GPRO simultaneously, although this is not required.

Please note that an Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS) account is required to complete self-nominations through the Communication Support Page. The Communication Support Page as well as information for assistance with a new or existing IACS account can be found at https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/pqri_home/212.

For all PQRS/eRx program related questions and/or help with IACS, contact The QualityNet Help Desk at 866-288-8912 or gnetsupport@sdps.org. The help desk is available Monday through Friday from 7am through 7pm CT. Additional information about 2013 PQRS GPRO self-nominations and requirements will be posted on the CMS website on or about 11/30/2012 at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Group_Practice_Reporting_Option.html.

2013 Self-Nominations for the Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that program year 2013 self-nominations from group practices wishing to participate in the 2013 eRx GPRO will be accepted beginning December 1, 2012 and ending January 31, 2013. Self nomination during the 12/1/2012 – 1/31/2013 timeframe is **required** from all group practices that wish to participate in 2013 eRx GPRO. It is important to note that once a group self-nominates to participate in the 2013 eRx GPRO, they will have until 4/1/2013 to opt-out of this selection.

There are three distinct scenarios for 2013 eRx GPRO self-nominations:

- 1) If the group practice is self-nominating to participate in the 2013 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) GPRO, the group can self-nominate for 2013 eRx GPRO at the same time via the Quality Reporting Communication Support Page (Communication Support Page) at https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/communications_support_system/234.

-OR-

- 2) If the group practice is not also self-nominating for 2013 PQRS GPRO at the same time, the group must send a self-nomination statement via email to PQRS_Vetting@mathematica-mpr.com.

-OR-

- 3) If the group is part of an Accountable Care Organization (ACO), the group must send a self-nomination statement via email to PQRS_Vetting@mathematica-mpr.com. Please note that an ACO cannot self-nominate for 2013 PQRS GPRO, but must self-nominate if they wish to participate in 2013 eRx GPRO.

Please note that an Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS) account is required to complete self-nominations through the Communication Support Page. The Communication Support Page as well as information for assistance with a new or existing IACS account can be found at https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/pqri_home/212.

For all PQRS/eRx program related questions and/or help with IACS, contact The QualityNet Help Desk at 866-288-8912 or qnetsupport@sdps.org. The help desk is available Monday through Friday from 7am through 7pm CT. Additional information about 2013 eRx GPRO self-nominations and requirements will be posted on or about 11/30/2012 on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/ERxIncentive/Group-Practice-Reporting-Option.html>.

Reminder

We advise eligible professionals to check the CMS website Spotlight page for recent updates on the PQRS/eRx Incentive Program.

Upcoming Calls/Meetings/Updates

National Provider Calls (1:30-3:00 pm EST)

December 18, 2012 - Program Year 2012 Data Submission for the PQRS-EHR Incentive Program Pilot and Program Year 2013 Self-Nomination Process for GPROs, Registries, MOC and EHR Data Submission Vendors