

CROWN Memorandum



MEMO NUMBER: 15-0900-GN

TO: ESRD Executive Directors, ESRD Data Managers, Regional Contracting Officer Representatives

FROM: James Poyer
Director, Division of Value, Incentives & Quality Reporting
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

DATE: August 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Extending the End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program's Payment Year 2016 Preview Period

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is informing the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network Organizations (Networks) that it will **extend** the ESRD Quality Incentive Program's (QIP) ongoing Preview Period for Payment Year (PY) 2016 for an additional two weeks, **through 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, August 31, 2015.**

The Preview Period is an important activity for scoring facility performance in the ESRD QIP. It provides an opportunity for facilities to review their scores and pose questions to CMS before those scores are finalized later this year. Facilities with ESRD QIP scores that fail to meet or exceed the minimum Total Performance Score (TPS) face payment reductions of up to 2%.

CMS has decided to extend the Preview Period in order to ensure that facilities have sufficient time and ability to access ESRD QIP 1.0.0, as well as to pose clarification questions and/or formal inquiries as necessary through that system. We also want to ensure that facilities receive a timely and accurate PY 2016 payment reflective of ESRD-QIP performance and reporting on PY 2016 program quality measures. starting with January 2016 claims submitted by facilities.

Please refer to the CROWN Memorandum released earlier this month for details regarding facility acquisition of patient lists used to score facilities, as well as facility access to the ESRD QIP system generally.

Actions Required by the Networks

Please inform facilities about the extension of the PY 2016 Preview Period through 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, August 31, 2015. Please also reinforce the urgency of participating in the Preview Period and its potential implications for facility ESRD Medicare payment in 2016.

If you have any questions about the information in this memorandum, please contact Tamyra Garcia at Tamyra.Garcia@cms.hhs.gov or (410) 786-0856.