

**End-Stage Renal Disease
Quality Incentive Program
Fact Sheet
July 14, 2011**

Preview of Payment Year 2012 Facility Performance Score Reports

The purpose of this memo is to provide Medicare-certified renal dialysis facilities information on the upcoming Performance Score Preview Period and the Performance Score Reports (PSRs). The 2012 Preview PSRs are provided to facilities by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in conjunction with the new End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP).

The following information is intended to complement and update the *Distribution of 2011 Dialysis Facility Reports and Payment Year 2012 ESRD QIP Draft Performance Score Reports* memo, which was provided to facilities on June 1, 2011.

Overview

Beginning January 1, 2012, facilities may be subject to a payment reduction of up to two percent on Medicare claims determined by their performance on quality measures established by CMS. The Preview Period will give facilities an opportunity to review their PSR and ask questions about their scores in advance of payment reductions being applied. All facilities are strongly encouraged to review their scores early in the Preview Period, beginning July 15, 2011.

ESRD QIP: Background, Scoring Structure, and Payment Reductions

The ESRD QIP is a program designed to encourage high quality care for dialysis patients. CMS established the program in accordance with Section 153(c) of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA). Details of the program are provided in the Final Rule, published in the *Federal Register* January 5, 2011 and available online at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2010-33143.pdf>.

Under the ESRD QIP, CMS awards points to facilities based on their performance on three quality of care measures—two anemia management measures and one dialysis adequacy measure. Specifically, CMS assesses the percentage of patients with a hemoglobin (Hb) <10 g/dL, the percentage of patients with a Hb >12 g/dL (low percentage is desired for both Hb measures) and the percentage of patients with a urea reduction ratio (URR) over 65% (high percentage is desired).

CMS compares each facility's performance in the Performance Period (calendar year 2010) to a performance standard to calculate scores for each measure. The individual measure scores are then weighted and combined to derive the facility's Total Performance Score. Facilities with a Total Performance Score below 26 (out of 30 possible) points will have their Medicare payments for dialysis services delivered during the payment year (PY) 2012 reduced on a sliding scale.

Two percent is the maximum payment reduction that will be applied. The preview PSR document displays your facility's performance scores and expected payment reduction percentage and also explains how these scores were calculated. Additional details of how scores are calculated can be found in the ESRD QIP PY 2012 Final Rule.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2010-33143.pdf>.

PSR Preview Period: Highlights

Similar to the preview of Dialysis Facility Reports (DFR), facilities will have the opportunity to preview their ESRD QIP PSRs during a set time period. Facilities that are properly credentialed and have created master user accounts will be able to view both their DFR and PSR at www.DialysisReports.org starting July 15, 2011.

The Preview Period for the PY 2012 PSR is July 15, 2011 through August 15, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. (EDT).

PSR Preview Period: Clarification Questions and Formal Inquiries

Throughout the Preview Period, facilities will be able to submit **clarification questions**—for example, questions related to scoring methodology or what data was included in the calculation of their scores. **CMS strongly encourages facilities to review their scores early and submit any clarification questions no later than August 1, 2011** to ensure that a CMS response is received before the Preview Period ends.

If a facility believes it has identified an error in its score, that facility may submit a single **Formal Inquiry** requesting CMS review. Facilities must indicate approval of the Medical Director/Facility Administrator when submitting their Formal Inquiry. CMS will respond to all Formal Inquiries submitted during the Preview Period (though the response may be transmitted after the Preview Period ends). Please note that CMS will respond to clarification questions and formal inquiries via Arbor Research.

While each facility is permitted to submit only one Formal Inquiry, facilities are not limited in the number of clarification questions they can submit. However, if clarification questions are submitted after August 1, 2011, CMS cannot guarantee that all questions will be resolved within the Preview Period.

ESRD QIP: Public Reporting Requirements

Once finalized, all facility scores will be made available to the general public. MIPPA requires that CMS provide each facility a Performance Score Certificate (PSC) that displays the facility's Total Performance Score and scores on the individual measures. Near the end of 2011, facilities should be prepared to download their final PSR and PSC from www.DialysisReports.org. Each facility is required by law to display the Performance Score Certificate **in a prominent location** and keep the certificate on display for the duration of calendar year 2012 (ending 12/31/2012). In addition, CMS will publicly post all facility scores on the Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) website (www.medicare.gov/dialysis) by January 2012.

It is imperative that each facility ensure their log-on credentials are functional so they can download and print their PSC for posting.

ESRD QIP Preview Webcast: Performance Score Reports Overview for Facilities

On July 14, 2011, CMS held a webcast to help facilities understand their PSRs and the underlying ESRD QIP scoring formulas, calculations, and payment reduction policies. The webcast was recorded and is available at: www.cms.gov/live.

Facility Checklist for the ESRD QIP PY 2012 Preview Period

✓	Date	Action
✓	June 15, 2011	All facility DFR master account credentials (log-on and password) were reset.
✓	Beginning June 1, 2011	Facilities should review instructions provided by Networks for accessing their DFR and preview PSRs on www.DialysisReports.org .
	July 14, 2011 1:00-3:00 p.m. (EDT)	CMS hosts the webcast "Preview Performance Score Reports Overview."
	Beginning July 15, 2011	Watch the webcast "Preview Performance Score Reports Overview" at www.cms.gov/live if you missed the actual webcast held July 14.
	Beginning July 15, 2011	Facilities download preview PSR (and DFR) documents from www.DialysisReports.org and review their scores, making note of any outstanding questions or potential issues.
	Beginning July 15, 2011	Facilities check www.DialysisReports.org for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and other background materials that could provide answers to PSR-related questions.
	July 15 to August 1, 2011	Facilities submit clarification questions about their PSR as needed, according to instructions found on www.DialysisReports.org . <i>Facilities may submit clarification questions after August 1, 2011, but CMS cannot guarantee all questions will be resolved prior to the close of the Preview Period.</i>
	August 15, 2011 5:00 p.m. (EDT)	Deadline for facilities to submit a single Formal Inquiry regarding their scores. Formal Inquiries will be submitted according to instructions found on www.DialysisReports.org . <i>Formal Inquiries and questions will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. August 15.</i>

* **Note:** Facilities that have difficulty logging into www.DialysisReports.org may:

- **Email:** Support@DialysisReports.org (does not require logging in)
- **Call toll-free:** (877) 665-1680, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EDT)