

# **Vendor Notification**

## **2008 EHR Measure & Technical Specifications**

*August 27, 2007*

### **2008 EHR Measure & Technical Specs Vendor Notification**

On December 20, 2006, President Bush signed the Tax Relief and Health Care Act (TRHCA) of 2006 authorizing a physician reporting system and a financial incentive for eligible professionals who voluntarily submit quality data codes at a satisfactory rate to the reporting system. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has entitled this statutory program the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). PQRI began accepting data via administrative claims from providers July 1, 2007, on 74 quality measures.

In its proposed 2008 physician payment rule, CMS published notice that we are considering for 2008 the feasibility and utility of accepting quality data submitted from Electronic Health Records (EHRs) for a limited number of PQRI measures from those that also are included in the ambulatory measures collected through the current Doctors Office Quality – Information Technology (DOQ-IT) Project. If implemented, the EHR-based submission process would serve as an alternative method to claims-based reporting of submitting quality data for the applicable subset of PQRI measures, not a required method. The 2008 physician payment rule will be finalized on or about November 1, 2007.

In preparation for possible EHR-based reporting for 2008, five of the PQRI measures proposed for 2008 have been specified for EHR-based submission. These five measures are also included as DOQ-IT measures. Updated EHR measure and technical specifications for these five overlapping DOQ-IT and PQRI quality measures are posted at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri/> and <http://www.qualitynet.org>.

No decision has been made at this time on the continuation of the current DOQ-IT (Doctor's Office Quality – Information Technology) Project or the availability of an EHR-based data submission mechanism for PQRI (Physician Quality Reporting Initiative) in 2008. Therefore, it should not be assumed or concluded based on this posting that either DOQ-IT or PQRI EHR data submission mechanism(s) will be available in 2008. However, insofar as these five measures would be used in either DOQ-IT or for EHR reporting for PQRI for 2008, these are the final updated measure and technical specifications for 2008, subject only to minor technical corrections.

A subsequent vendor notice and any technical corrections to the measure and technical specifications will be posted when the decision is made whether EHR reporting through DOQ-IT or PQRI will be available for 2008. Should an EHR-based data submission mechanism reporting be available for 2008, the submissions must also include all specified Medicare beneficiary data to ensure that necessary data is available to calculate satisfactory reporting and potential bonuses.