

NATIONAL PROVIDER CALL:
**Understanding the Electronic
Prescribing (eRx) Incentive
Program 2012 Payment
Adjustment**

April 19, 2011

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What is the Medicare eRx Incentive Program?



- ◆ Provides a combination of incentives and payment adjustments to encourage electronic prescribing
- ◆ See <http://www.cms.gov/ERXincentive>
- ◆ To be incentive eligible for 2011, the eligible professional must:
 - ◆ Be a successful electronic prescriber (i.e., report the electronic prescribing measure at least 25 times on denominator eligible patient encounters)
 - ◆ Have at least 10% of the eligible professional's charges comprised of codes in the denominator of the electronic prescribing measure

2011 eRx Program Details



- ◆ 1% incentive payment
- ◆ Reporting mechanisms: Claims, Qualified* registry, Qualified* EHR
- ◆ Reporting period: January 1-December 31, 2011
- ◆ No need to register for eRx Incentive Program
- ◆ For successful reporting under the 2011 eRx Incentive Program, a single quality-data code (G8443) should be reported for denominator eligible visits

** Only registries and EHR vendors considered "qualified" for the 2011 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program are eligible to report this measure using this method.*

eRx Payment Adjustments Planned for Future



- ◆ Beginning in 2012, payment adjustments may occur for not being a successful electronic prescriber
 - ◆ Applies whether or not eligible professional is planning to participate in EHR Incentive Program
 - ◆ Payment adjustment amounts:
 - ◆ 2012 – receive 99% of eligible professional’s (or group practice’s) Part B covered professional services
 - ◆ 2013 – receive 98.5%

2012 eRx Payment Adjustment



- ◆ **Reporting Period: January 1 – June 30, 2011**
- ◆ Reporting Mechanism: Claims only
- ◆ Note: Earning an eRx incentive (25 unique eRx events between January 1 and December 31, 2011) for 2011 will not exempt an eligible professional from the payment adjustment (must have 10 unique eRx events between January 1 and June 30, 2011)

How an Individual Eligible Professional Can Avoid 2012 eRx Payment Adjustment



◆ The eligible professional:

- ◆ is not a Physician (MD, DO, or podiatrist), Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant as of June 30, 2011
 - Based on primary taxonomy code in NPPES or
 - The eligible professional reports the G-code indicating that (s)he does not have prescribing privileges at least once **on a claim(s)** prior to June 30, 2011 (G8644)
- ◆ does not have at least 100 cases containing an encounter code in the measure denominator
- ◆ does not meet the 10% denominator threshold
- ◆ becomes a successful electronic prescriber

How a Group Practice Can Avoid 2012 eRx Payment Adjustment



- ◆ For group practices participating in eRx GPRO I or GPRO II during 2011, the group practice must become a successful electronic prescriber
 - ◆ Depending on the group's size, report the eRx measure on 75-2,500 unique eRx events for patients in the denominator of the measure for services occurring between January 1 and June 30, 2011

Hardship Exemption for eRx Payment Adjustment



- ◆ CMS may, on a case-by-case basis, exempt an eligible professional from the application of the eRx payment adjustment
- ◆ This exemption is subject to annual renewal
- ◆ For the 2012 eRx payment adjustment, the following circumstances would constitute a hardship:
 - ◆ The eligible professional practices in rural area with limited high-speed internet access, or
 - ◆ The eligible professional practices in an area with limited available pharmacies that can receive electronic prescriptions

eRx Payment Adjustment



◆ Summary

- ◆ Beginning in 2012, those identified as not “successful electronic prescribers” may be subject to a payment adjustment
 - ◆ **Ensure submission of required number of eRx (10 for individual, varies for GPROs) before June 30, 2011 OR one of the hardship G-codes to avoid payment adjustment in 2012**
 - ◆ Ensure specialty information is correct in NPPES
 - ◆ Need a “qualified” eRx system to participate (see <http://www.cms.gov/ERXincentive>)
 - ◆ Only way to report eRx measure to avoid the payment adjustment is **claims** but to be incentive eligible you can use claims, a qualified EHR, or qualified registry
 - ◆ Check for state-specific eRx requirements; all states allow eRx, but some have certain regulatory requirements
 - ◆ It is possible to receive an eRx incentive payment for 2011 AND also an eRx payment adjustment for 2012

Where to Call for Help



- ◆ QualityNet Help Desk: 866-288-8912
(7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST M-F) or qnetsupport@sdps.org
(TTY 877-715-6222)
- ◆ Also see the:
 - ◆ Physician Quality Reporting website
<http://www.cms.gov/PQRS/> or
 - ◆ eRx Incentive Program website
<http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive>