

PQRI 2008 Incentive Payment Adjustments

CMS has initiated making payment adjustments for the 2008 PQRI program year as the result of the inquiry process established for the 2008 program year. Through the inquiry process, physicians and other eligible professionals have been able to raise questions as to satisfactory reporting and the incentive payments for PQRI.

Eligible professionals who satisfactorily reported PQRI measures for the 2008 PQRI program year are entitled to an incentive payment of 1.5% of estimated total Physician Fee Schedule or PFS charges. A number of inquiries identified apparent discrepancies between the estimated PFS allowed charges as reported in the CMS feedback reports and their own information.

Following a careful review, CMS identified inaccuracies in the calculations of total estimated PFS allowed charges for physicians and other eligible professionals upon which the 2008 incentive payments were based. This applied to eligible professionals who submitted claims for reconsideration or for which Medicare was a secondary payer. Although the amount of the inaccuracy was overall small, it affected a large portion of eligible professionals who satisfactorily reported for 2008 PQRI. In the vast majority of cases the resultant incentive payment adjustment is very small. In a few cases, the incentive payment adjustment is substantial, based on a large portion of an eligible professional's claims being submitted for reconsideration or with Medicare as a secondary payer.

The Medicare contractors began making the incentive payment adjustments for the 2008 PQRI reporting period in late April, and will be finished no later than May 21, 2010. If you receive paper checks, the message, "This is a PQRI incentive payment" on the check will signify it as the incentive payment adjustment. If you receive electronic remittances, look for provider adjustment reason code "LE" in the PLB 03-1 segment, and PQ08 in the PLB 03-2 segment, on the 835P to alert you that the incentive adjustment payment is for the 2008 PQRI. (The monetary amount will be in the PLB04 segment of the 835P.)

CMS continues to review inquiries made regarding the 2008 PQRI payment and to make refinements to the PQRI program going forward. CMS also plans to publish a 2008 experience report which will detail the program results for 2008 including results of the inquiry process.

Should you have questions, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk at 1-866-288-8912 from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. CST Monday through Friday or via qnetssupport@sdps.org.