

Summary of 2008 Testing Participation Self-Nomination Process: Medical Registries and Electronic Health Records Vendors

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services welcomes letters of self nomination from medical registries (registries) and electronic health record vendors (EHR vendors) to participate in the testing, during calendar-year 2008, of mechanisms for the submission of physician performance information via registries and electronic health records systems. The criteria that must be met by registries and EHR vendors in order to participate in this 2008 testing activity are identified in the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule (the Rule). The minimum requirements and criteria to qualify for participation in the testing activity vary slightly between registries and EHR vendors.

Self-nomination letters from registries and vendors must be received at the following address by 6pm Eastern Time on January 4, 2008:

“PQRI IT Testing Nomination”

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Clinical Standards and Quality
Quality Measurement and Health Assessment Group
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-02-01
Baltimore, MD 21244-8532

Registry Criteria

In addition to minimum capabilities necessary to support specific submission options and the requirement to comply with applicable law, regulation, and contracts with its participants, a registry must meet certain criteria in order to qualify to self-nominate for participation in the 2008 testing activity. Those criteria are as follows:

- (1) Be able to separate and report information for Medicare beneficiaries only.
- (2) Use at least 1 PQRI measure that is selected for 2008 inclusion. We will consider other measures recommended by specialty registries for possible future use in quality reporting and performance. *(For purposes of this testing activity, the use of the 2008 PQRI measure by or within the registry’s overall operations may be on a “test” or developmental basis, so long as data for the measure is collected, maintained, and can be reported as needed to support the submission option(s) to be tested in 2008.)*
- (3) Provide the data as outlined in the rule for the particular available option under which they are submitting data (that is, being able to report using option 2 and/or option 3).
- (4) Have a validation process for data contained in, and reported to CMS by, the registry.
- (5) Have or have applied for a QualityNet Exchange account. *(This criterion may be met by including in the self-nomination letter a statement that **either** the organization currently has a QualityNet Exchange account **or** that the organization intends to obtain such an account if chosen as one of the registries participating in the 2008 testing activity.)*

EHR Vendor Criteria

In order to participate in the 2008 testing activity, EHR vendors and/or their products must satisfy the following criteria:

- (1) Be able to submit data according to the HL7 technical specifications for submission of data to the Outpatient Clinical Warehouse, as defined for the Doctor's Office Quality – Information Technology (DOQ-IT) Project.
- (2) Have or have applied for a QualityNet Exchange account. *(This criterion may be met by including in the self-nomination letter a statement that **either** the organization currently has a QualityNet Exchange account **or** that the organization intends to obtain such an account if chosen as one of the registries participating in the 2008 testing activity.)*