

Guide to the Physician Compare Preview Period

Overview

In late 2016, Physician Compare will publicly report performance scores for a sub-set of individual clinician and group practice 2015 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) measures and non-PQRS measures submitted through a qualified clinical data registry (QCDR). Physician Compare only publicly reports data that meet our public reporting standards. Data must be statistically valid, reliable, and accurate; comparable across reporting mechanisms; and, to be included on public-facing profile pages, measures must resonate with consumers. Visit the [Physician Compare Initiative](#) page for more information about Physician Compare and how measures are selected for public reporting.

The Physician Compare 30-day preview-period allows clinicians and group practice representatives to preview their 2015 quality performance scores as they will appear on Physician Compare in late 2016. The Physician Compare preview period begins on **October 12, 2016** and ends **November 11, 2016**.

The secured preview period is facilitated through the **Provider Quality Information Portal (PQIP)**, which is part of the [PQRS Portal](#). PQIP only displays performance scores during the 30-day preview period, which is set by CMS. **We encourage all clinicians and group practice representatives to preview their performance scores as early in the preview period as possible.**

This guide contains the following sections:

- [How do I know if I have performance scores available for preview?](#)
- [How do I preview performance scores?](#)
- [Who do I contact if I have questions?](#)

How do I know if I have performance scores available for preview?

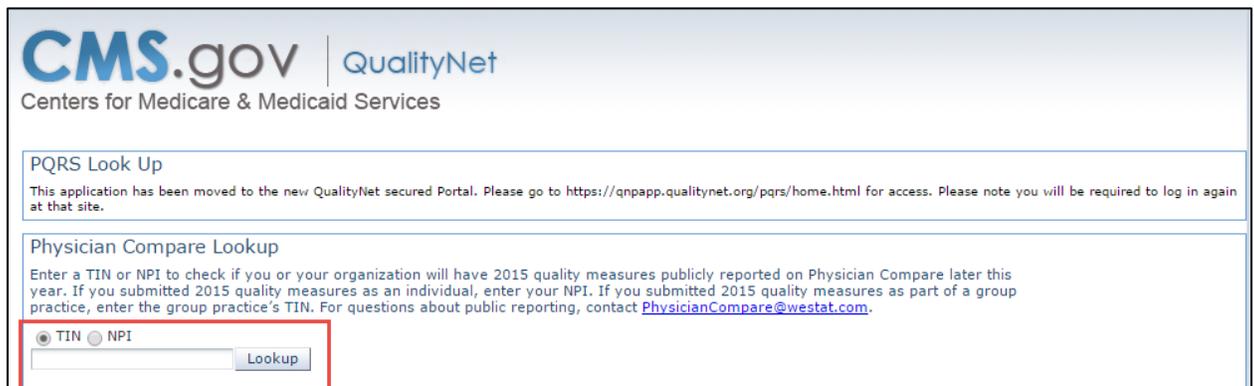
The **Physician Compare Lookup** tool is available on the [PQRS Lookup page](#). This tool lets you to check if you or your group practice have 2015 performance scores available for preview without signing in to the Portal.

To use the Physician Compare Lookup tool:

1. Go to <https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/lookup>.
2. Select the **TIN** radio button for checking the status for a group practice or the **NPI** radio button to check the status of an individual clinician.
3. Depending on the selected button, enter the TIN or NPI in the text box.

NOTE: There is no entry validation. Make sure that you are using the correct TIN or NPI format. TIN must include 9 digits in total; only digits and hyphens are allowed (examples: 01-2123234 or 012123234). NPI must include 10 digits (example: 0121232345).

4. Select **Lookup**.



The screenshot shows the CMS.gov QualityNet interface. At the top, it says "CMS.gov | QualityNet" and "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services". Below that is a "PQRS Look Up" section with a message: "This application has been moved to the new QualityNet secured Portal. Please go to https://qnpapp.qualitynet.org/pqrs/home.html for access. Please note you will be required to log in again at that site." The main section is titled "Physician Compare Lookup" and contains the following text: "Enter a TIN or NPI to check if you or your organization will have 2015 quality measures publicly reported on Physician Compare later this year. If you submitted 2015 quality measures as an individual, enter your NPI. If you submitted 2015 quality measures as part of a group practice, enter the group practice's TIN. For questions about public reporting, contact PhysicianCompare@westat.com." Below this text are two radio buttons: "TIN" (which is selected) and "NPI". To the right of these buttons is a text input field and a "Lookup" button. A red box highlights the radio buttons, the text input field, and the "Lookup" button.

How do I preview performance scores?

A step-by-step guide to access PQIP and preview your 2015 performance scores

1. Determine your user role

You need the correct user role to access your 2015 performance scores. Use the following role descriptions to determine your correct role:

- **Individual Practitioner**

The Individual Practitioner role applies to any eligible professional who submitted 2015 PQRS quality measure data as an individual clinician.

- **Provider Quality Information Portal (PQIP) Group Representative**

The PQIP Group Representative role applies to any individual who reviews the 2015 PQRS quality measure and patient experience data on behalf of a group practice.

2. Establish an Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) account

You need an active Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) account with the appropriate user role to access PQIP. To set up a new EIDM account, navigate to <https://www.portal.cms.gov>. Visit [CMS.gov](https://www.cms.gov) for additional information on EIDM accounts.

Remember, you must specify the **Individual Practitioner** or **PQIP Group Representative user role** when applying for an EIDM account. You will receive an email confirming that you have been approved for an account after completing the EIDM registration. You can then log into the PQRS Portal and access PQIP.

3. Launch PQIP

A. Navigate to the QualityNet Portal (<http://www.qualitynet.org/pqrs>).

B. The PQRS Portal sign-in page will appear. Select the **Sign In** button.

CMS.gov | QualityNet
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Related Links

- + CMS
- + Quality Improvement Resources
- + Measure Development
- + Consensus Organizations for Measure Endorsement/Approval
- + Communication Support Page
- + PQRS Lookup Functions

Release Notes
[PQRS Release Notes](#)

User Guides

Guest Announcement

Information in the Taxpayer Identification Number (Tax ID or TIN-level) PQRS feedback reports is confidential. Your report is safely stored online and accessible only to you (and those you authorize) through the web application. TIN-level reports should be shared only with others within the practice who have a vested interest in the summarized quality data. Sharing of other PQRS participants' information is acceptable only if the individual EP has authorized the TIN to do so. Please ensure that these reports are handled appropriately and disposed of properly to avoid a potential Personally Identifiable Information (PII) exposure or Identity Theft risk.

PQRS Feedback Reports for program year 2014 and later can be accessed (when available) from the PV-PQRS portal. For instructions on how to access these Feedback Reports, please go to Physician Feedback Program website.

Physician and Other Health Care Professionals Quality Reporting Portal

Sign In to your Portal

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C. A warning screen will appear, describing the terms and conditions associated with Portal use. After reading the warning screen text, select **I Accept**.

Terms and Conditions

OMB No.0938-1236 | Expiration Date: 04/30/2017 | [Paperwork Reduction Act](#)

You are accessing a U.S. Government information system, which includes (1) this computer, (2) this computer network, (3) all computers connected to this network, and (4) all devices and storage media attached to this network or to a computer on this network. This information system is provided for U.S. Government-authorized use only.

Unauthorized or improper use of this system may result in disciplinary action, as well as civil and criminal penalties.

By using this information system, you understand and consent to the following:
You have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system.
At any time, and for any lawful Government purpose, the government may monitor, intercept, and search and seize any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system.

Any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system may be disclosed or used for any lawful Government purpose.

To continue, you must accept the terms and conditions. If you decline, your login will automatically be cancelled.

I Accept **Decline**

D. The **Sign In** screen will appear. Type your EIDM **User Name** and **Password** in the **User Name** and **Password** fields and select **Log In**.

E. The **Welcome Page** will appear. Select the **Provider Quality Information Portal** link in the side navigation to launch PQIP.

CMS.gov QualityNet Log Off Fwfirstname Fwlastname

Welcome, XXXX999

Log Off

- Feedback Dashboard
- PQRS Feedback Reports - Viewer
- Provider Quality Information Portal**
- Roles Management

Welcome

Welcome to Physicians Quality Reporting System (PQRS), quality data processing and reporting system. Providers, group practices, and data submission entities can test submitting quality data, perform data submissions during the submission period, view/request feedback reports, submit informal review requests for PQRS program.

To start the submission process or begin testing, or to access any other PQRS function, select the option on the left side navigation.

Scheduled System Outages

PQRS system and applications will be down for maintenance during the dates below. For questions, contact the QualityNet Helpdesk.

Every Tuesday starting at 8:00 PM ET through Wednesday at 6:00 AM ET
Every Thursday starting at 8:00 PM ET through Friday at 6:00 AM ET
Third weekend of each Month starting Friday at 8:00 PM ET through Monday at 6:00 AM ET

Upcoming Maintenance weekend schedule:
August (08/22 - 08/24)
September (09/19 - 09/21)
October (10/17 - 10/19)
November (11/21 - 11/23)
December (12/12 - 12/14)

QualityNet Home CMS.gov QualityNet

A federal government website managed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244

4. Preview your 2015 performance scores

Once you launch PQIP, you can view your 2015 performance scores as they will be reported on Physician Compare later this year. A list of clinician and group practice performance scores that are targeted for public reporting this year is available on the [Physician Compare Initiative](#) page.

If you don't have performance scores that will be publicly reported later this year, you'll see the following message:

You will not have quality measure data published on Physician Compare this year. Only individual eligible professionals and group practices that participated in the 2015 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and submitted measures noted in the 2015 Physician Fee Schedule final rule as available for public reporting have measures to preview at this time. For more information about public reporting on Physician Compare, visit the [Physician Compare Initiative](#) page.

If you do have performance scores that will be publicly reported later this year, you'll see a screen similar to the following:

The screenshot displays the 'Provider Quality Information Portal' interface. At the top, it indicates 'Not Available' for the provider's data. Below this, it lists the 'Primary Specialty' as Ophthalmology, General Surgery, Allergy/Immunology, and provides the 'PAC ID' as 1629001722. The 'Quality Activities' are listed as '---'. There are three tabs: 'Clinical Quality of Care', 'Survey of Patients' Experiences' (which is selected), and 'Downloadable Data'. A text box provides contact information for the Physician Compare support team. The 'Survey of Patients' Experiences' section includes a 'Test Category' and an explanatory paragraph about Medicare's role in patient experience surveys. Below this, two performance metrics are shown: 'Getting Timely Care, Appointments, and Information' with a score of 89% (5 stars) and 'How Well Your Doctors Communicate' with a score of 81% (4 stars). The 'How Well Your Doctors Communicate' section lists factors such as 'Doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand', 'Doctor listened carefully to you', and 'Doctor gave you easy to understand instructions about health problem or concern'.

This screen is described in more detail on the next page.

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Depending on the measures that you or your group practice reports, you may see one to three tabs:

1. Clinical quality of care tab¹

The clinical quality of care tab only appears if:

- The preview period is open; and
- You or your group practice have 2015 PQRS performance scores available for public reporting on Physician Compare later this year.

If these conditions are not met, the tab will not appear.

2. Survey of patients' experience tab²

The survey of patients' experience tab only appears if:

- The preview period is open; and
- Your group practice has 2015 CAHPS for PQRS performance scores available for public reporting on Physician Compare later this year.

If these conditions are not met, the tab will not appear.

3. Downloadable data tab³

The downloadable data tab only appears if:

- The preview period is open; and
- You or your group practice have performance scores in the Physician Compare downloadable datasets later this year.

If these conditions are not met, the tab will not appear.

For a list of PQRS measures that are targeted to be reported on Physician Compare in late 2016, refer to the following documents.

- 2015 Individual Clinician Measures Available on Physician Compare in late 2016
- 2015 Group Practice Measures Available on Physician Compare in late 2016
- 2015 Individual Clinician Measures Available on the Physician Compare Downloadable Database in late 2016
- 2015 Group Practice Measures Available on the Physician Compare Downloadable Database in late 2016

¹Beginning in late 2016, PQRS clinical quality of care measures publicly reported on Physician Compare will be labeled "performance scores."

²Beginning in late 2016, CAHPS for PQRS measures publicly reported on Physician Compare will be labeled "patient survey scores."

³ If a measure meets all of the public reporting standards, except for the requirement that it resonates with consumers, these performance scores may be added to the Physician Compare downloadable database, but not be included on the public-facing profile pages. All measures available on the public-facing profile pages are published using plain language measure titles and descriptions and have been tested with consumers.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

For EIDM and PQIP registration assistance, contact the QualityNet Help Desk. 866-288-8912, TTY: 877-715-6222, gnetsupport@hcqis.org.

You can get more information about PQIP at any time by selecting the **Help link** in the header for each page to open the complete User Manual for PQIP. You can also select the **Help icons** within individual sections of each screen to launch information for that specific section.

For questions about Physician Compare, public reporting, the preview period, or performance scores, visit the [Physician Compare Initiative](#) page or contact us at PhysicianCompare@Westat.com