

Physician Compare Fact Sheet

June 2014

What is Physician Compare?

Physician Compare is a website where you can learn more about physicians and other health care professionals who treat people enrolled in Medicare.

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created Physician Compare to help consumers make informed choices about the health care they receive through Medicare.
- Physician Compare meets requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010.

What can you find on Physician Compare?

Physician Compare has information about 877,000 physicians and other health care professionals who serve people enrolled in Medicare. Some of the information on the website includes:

- Their names, addresses, phone numbers, primary and secondary specialties, training, and gender.
- What languages they speak, in addition to English.
- What hospitals they are affiliated with, including links to the hospital's profile on [Hospital Compare](#), when possible.
- Their American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board Certification information.
- Whether they accept the Medicare-approved payment amount as payment in full (this means that the patient won't be billed for any more than the Medicare deductible and coinsurance).
- Group practice information including their location addresses, phone numbers, maps and directions, and specialties, as well as a list of physicians and other health care professionals affiliated with the practice.
- An indicator of individual eligible professionals' satisfactory participation in the 2012 [Physician Quality Reporting System \(PQRS\) Incentive Program](#) and 2013 [Electronic Health Records \(EHR\) Incentive Program](#).
- An indicator of group practices' satisfactory participation in the 2012 [PQRS Group Practice Reporting Option \(GPRO\) Incentive Program](#).
- An indicator of individual eligible professionals' and a group practices' successful participation in the 2012 [Electronic Prescribing \(eRx\) Incentive Program](#).
- General [Accountable Care Organization \(ACO\)](#) information including names and website addresses. ACOs are groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers who come together voluntarily to give coordinated high-quality care to people enrolled in Medicare.

Quality measures are also now available on Physician Compare. As outlined in the 2012 Physician Fee Schedule final rule, CMS began a phased approach to public reporting and published a subset of the 2012 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO) Diabetes Mellitus (DM) and Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) measures collected via the GPRO web interface for the 66 group practices and 141 Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) that successfully reported in February 2014. The quality measures include:

- Controlling blood sugar levels in patients with diabetes.
- Controlling blood pressure in patients with diabetes.
- Prescribing aspirin to patients with diabetes and heart disease.
- Patients with diabetes who do not use tobacco.
- Prescribing medicine to improve the pumping action of the heart in patients who have both heart disease and certain other conditions.

CMS decides what improvements to make to the website and what types of information to include using:

- Feedback from the public and stakeholders through various forums
- E-mail received at PhysicianCompare@Westat.com
- The rulemaking process
 - Through rulemaking, CMS proposes new policies related to Physician Compare.
 - The public can comment on these proposals and give CMS their opinions.

What's next for Physician Compare?

CMS will continue implementing this phased approach to adding quality data on Physician Compare. These data will help consumers make better health care decisions. The 2013 and 2014 Physician Fee Schedule final rules lay out the next steps of this plan.

In 2014, CMS will update all quality program participation information as new information becomes available. In 2014, CMS will also add:

- [PQRS Maintenance of Certification Incentive Program](#) information
- [Million Hearts Initiative](#) participation information

In late 2014, CMS will publish the next phase of quality measure data on the website, including:

- The 2013 PQRS GPRO and ACO GPRO DM and CAD web interface measures.*
 - Composite performance scores for DM and CAD will also be reported*
- The [Clinician and Group Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems \(CG CAHPS\)](#) data for the 2013 Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) ACOs.*

In 2015, CMS will continue to update all quality program participation information described above. CMS will also add:

- 2014 PQRS GPRO and ACO GPRO web interface measures.*
- A sub-set of the 2014 PQRS GPRO Registry and EHR measures.*
- 2014 CG-CAHPS measures for group practices and ACOs.*
- A sub-set of the 2014 PQRS individual measures collected through a Registry, EHR, or claims.*
- Measures from the 2014 Cardiovascular Prevention measures group for individual eligible professionals in support of the Million Hearts Initiative.*

Future plans for Physician Compare will be finalized through the Physician Fee Schedule rulemaking process.

How can you get more information?

- Visit the Physician Compare website: www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare
- E-mail feedback and questions to PhysicianCompare@Westat.com
- If you're a physician or other health care professional, visit the [CMS Physician Compare Initiative Page](#) for more information about how to:
 - Keep your Physician Compare data current
 - Troubleshoot problems with your listing
 - Learn more about public reporting on Physician Compare