A Guide to the Physician Compare Preview Period

Overview

This guide describes how to use the Provider Quality Information Portal (PQIP). PQIP is a portal that allows clinicians and group representatives to preview their 2016 performance information before it is published on Physician Compare in late 2017.

What’s in this guide:

- What’s the Physician Compare preview period?
- Will I have performance information available for preview?
- How do I preview my performance information?
- Navigating PQIP
- More ways to learn

Who should use this guide?

- Clinicians who submitted 2016 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and/or non-PQRS Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) measure data
- Individuals representing groups that submitted 2016 PQRS measure data and/or non-PQRS QCDR measure data
What’s the Physician Compare preview period?

The Physician Compare preview period is a 30-day period set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that allows clinicians and group representatives to preview their performance information before it is publicly reported.

Later this year, Physician Compare will begin publicly reporting performance information for 2016 data. All 2016 PQRS data, including Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) for PQRS, and non-PQRS QCDR data, are available for public reporting later this year.

The secured 30-day preview period is facilitated through the Provider Quality Information Portal (PQIP), a web-based system that is part of the PQRS portal. PQIP displays performance information as it will appear on Physician Compare, so you can preview your data the way your patients will see it when it is published on the site. Preview period begins on **October 18, 2017** and ends on **November 17, 2017 at 8 PM EDT**.

Why preview?

- It’s a chance for you to see what your patients will see before your performance information is published on the Physician Compare website later this year.
- You’ll be able to see which of the measure data you submitted for 2016 is targeted for public reporting on Physician Compare profile pages versus the Downloadable Database.

We encourage you to preview your data as early in the preview period as possible. To learn more about Physician Compare, public reporting, and the 30-day preview period, visit the Physician Compare Initiative page.
Will I have performance information available for preview?

You can check if you or your group have performance information available for preview by using the **Physician Compare Lookup Tool** available on the [PQRS Lookup Functions page](https://qnpapp.qualitynet.org/pqrs/lookup_funct.htm). Note that the Physician Compare Lookup Tool will be available at the start of the preview period on October 18, 2017.

To access the Lookup tool, follow these steps:


2. Under the **Physician Compare Lookup** section, select the TIN or NPI radio button.
   - If you’re checking the status for an individual clinician, select the **NPI** radio button.
   - If you’re checking the status for a group, select the **TIN** radio button.

3. Depending on what you selected in Step 2, enter the TIN or NPI in the textbox.
   - **NOTE:** Make sure you’re using the correct TIN/NPI format. TIN must include 9 digits; only digits are allowed (ex: 012345678). NPI must include 10 digits (ex: 0123456789).

4. Select **Lookup**.
   - You will get a message indicating if you or your group have or do not have performance information available for preview for this year.
How do I preview my performance information?

Follow these steps to access PQIP and preview your performance information.

1. **Determine your user role.**

   To access PQIP and preview your performance information, you’ll need the appropriate user role. Use the following descriptions to determine your correct user role:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are:</th>
<th>Secure this role in EIDM:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An Individual Eligible Practitioner (EP) who submitted 2016 PQRS measure data as an individual EP</td>
<td>Individual Practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An individual who reviews the PQRS quality measure data and the patient experience data on behalf of a group</td>
<td>PQIP Group Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   For assistance requesting the correct user role, contact the QualityNet Help Desk: 866-288-8912, TTY: 877-715-6222, qnetsupport@hcqis.org.

2. **Establish an Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) account.**

   In addition to having the correct user role, you’ll also need an active EIDM account to access PQIP and preview your performance information. To set up a new EIDM account, go to [https://portal.cms.gov/](https://portal.cms.gov/).

   Find more information about applying for and updating your EIDM account via the [Quick Reference Guides](https://www.cms.gov/QuickReferenceGuides) or by visiting [CMS.gov](https://www.cms.gov).

   NOTE: When applying for a new EIDM account, you must specify the Individual Practitioner or PQIP Group Representative user role. You’ll receive an email confirming your approval for an account after completing the EIDM registration. At that point, you can log in to the [PQRS portal](https://www.pqrs.gov) to access PQIP.
3. Launch PQIP.
   b. The PQRS portal sign-in page will appear. Select Sign In.
   c. A System Use Notification form will appear. After reading the terms and conditions, select I Accept.
d. The Welcome to CMS Enterprise Portal page will appear. Enter your EIDM User ID in the textbox and select Next.

![Welcome to CMS Enterprise Portal](image)

e. The second sign-in form will appear. This form requires you to sign in with two-factor authentication.

- Enter your password in the **Password** textbox.
- Select your Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) device type option using the **MFA Device Type** drop down box and select **Send**.
- Enter the security code delivered to you via email or phone or displayed on your secure connection device in the **Security Code** textbox.
- Select **Log In**.
The QualityNet Secure Portal Landing page will appear. Select the **Physician Quality Reporting System** link in the drop down menu for the **Quality Programs** tab.

From the Physician Quality Reporting System Landing page, select the **Physician Quality Information Portal** link under the **Reports** panel on the right-hand side.

This will launch the **PQIP application**, where you’ll be able to preview your performance information.
4. **Preview your 2016 performance information.**

Once you launch PQIP, you can view your 2016 performance information as it will appear on Physician Compare later this year.

If you don’t have performance information available for public reporting later this year, you’ll receive the following message:

*You will not have performance scores published on Physician Compare this year. Only individual eligible professionals and group practices that participated in the 2016 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and submitted measures noted in the 2016 Physician Fee Schedule final rule as available for public reporting have performance scores 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 information available for public reporting later this year, you’ll see a screen similar to one shown below:

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**CLINICIAN NAME**

**Primary Specialty:** Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
**NPI:** 9123456789  
**Quality Activities:** Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)

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**Performance Scores**

If you have questions or concerns about your performance scores or about public reporting on Physician Compare, you can contact the Physician Compare support team via e-mail at PhysicianCompare@Wesctel.com or via the QualityNet Helpdesk at:

**Phone:** (866) 288-9912  
**TTY:** (877) 715-6222

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**Performance Scores**

These performance scores are based on information this clinician reported to Medicare using a set of specific criteria and guidelines developed to show whether this doctor provided patients the best recommended care. Performance scores are included on Physician Compare to help you make informed decisions about your health care and to encourage all clinicians to improve the care they provide. It’s important to understand that not all clinicians report the same information to Medicare, and the types of care available to report on are different depending on the types of services they provide to patients. Reporting more or less information is not a reflection of this clinician’s quality. And, the performance scores are not a complete picture of the types of services this clinician provides. This is just a snapshot of some of the care this clinician provided to people with Medicare in 2015. Get more information.

**Eye care**

Some clinicians do a better job than others providing care to protect patients’ eyes and vision. Medicare gave this clinician a performance score based on how well the clinician provided care to maintain patients’ eyesight. The scores are presented as stars and as a percent.

- **Dilated eye exams on patients with age-related macular degeneration.** 57%

**Patient safety**

Some clinicians do a better job than others preventing harm to patients by reducing risk of accidents and medical error. Medicare gave this clinician a performance score on each measure based on how well the clinician followed recommended care to keep patients safe. The scores are presented as stars and as a percent.

- **Giving preventive antibiotics to surgical patients.** 48%
Navigating PQIP

Depending on the measures that you or your group reported, you may see one to three different tabs while signed in to PQIP.

1. **Performance Scores tab.**

   The Performance Scores tab only appears if:
   - The preview period is open (October 18, 2017 – November 17, 2017); and
   - Your group has 2016 PQRS performance information available for public reporting on Physician Compare starting later this year; and/or
   - You or your group have 2016 non-PQRS QCDR performance information available for public reporting on Physician Compare starting later this year.

2. **Patient Survey Scores tab.**

   The Patient Survey Scores tab only appears if:
   - The preview period is open; and
   - Your group has 2016 CAHPS for PQRS performance information available for public reporting on Physician Compare starting later this year.

3. **Downloadable Data tab.**

   The Downloadable Data tab only appears if:
   - The preview period is open; and
   - You or your group have performance information available for public reporting in the Physician Compare Downloadable Database.

The next page shows you an example of how these tabs might appear in PQIP.

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1 Beginning in late 2017, the tab labeled “Performance Scores” will be labeled “Performance” on Physician Compare public-facing profile pages.

2 Any 2016 information publicly reported on Physician Compare must be designated as available for public reporting in the Calendar Year (CY) 2016 Physician Fee Schedule final rule. Measures publicly reported in the Downloadable Database must have a sufficient number of reporters and meet our statistical reporting criteria. This means measures must be deemed statistically valid, reliable, accurate, and comparable. Performance scores for all measures that meet these statistical criteria are available for inclusion in the Downloadable Database to support CMS’s goal of increased transparency.
GROUP NAME
Primary Specialty: Not Available
PAC ID: 012345678
Quality Activities: Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO)

Performance Scores
Patient Survey Scores
Downloadable Data

If you have questions or concerns about your performance scores or about public reporting on Physician Compare, you can contact the Physician Compare support team via e-mail at PhysicianCompare@Wadat.com or via the QualityNet Helpdesk at:
Phone: (956) 289-8922
TTY: (877) 715-6222

Performance Scores

These performance scores are based on information this group practice reported to Medicare using a set of specific criteria and guidelines developed to show whether this group practice provided patients the best recommended care. Performance scores are included on Physician Compare to help you make informed decisions about your health care and to encourage all clinicians to improve the care they provide. It’s important to understand that not all group practices report the same information to Medicare, and the types of care available to report on are different depending on the types of services they provide to patients. Reporting more or less information is not a reflection of this group practice’s quality. And, the performance scores are not a complete picture of the types of services this group practice provides. This is just a snapshot of some of the care this group practice provided to people with Medicare in 2015. Get more information.

More stars are better.

Eye care

Some group practices do a better job than others providing care to protect patients’ eyes and vision. Medicare gave this group practice a performance score based on how well the group provided care to maintain patients’ eyesight. The scores are presented as stars and as a percent.

- Dilated eye exams on patients with age-related macular degeneration.

Patient safety

Some group practices do a better job than others preventing harm to patients by reducing risk of accidents and medical error. Medicare gave this group practice a performance score on each measure based on how well the group followed recommended care to keep patients safe. The scores are presented as stars and as a percent.

- Giving preventive antibiotics to surgical patients.
- Stopping preventive antibiotics 24 hours after non-cardiac surgeries.
More ways to learn

Questions about EIDM and PQIP

For EIDM and PQIP registration assistance, including requesting the correct user role, contact the QualityNet Help Desk: 866-288-8912, TTY: 877-715-6222, qnetsupport@hcqis.org.

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

Questions about Physician Compare

For questions about public reporting on Physician Compare, the 30-day preview period, or performance information, visit the Physician Compare Initiative page or contact us at PhysicianCompare@Westat.com.

To find out what 2016 performance information are targeted for public reporting on Physician Compare starting later this year, check out these documents in the preview toolkit on the Physician Compare Initiative page:

› Physician Compare PY 2016 Group Profile Page Measures Available for Preview
› Physician Compare PY 2016 Group Downloadable Database Measures Available for Preview
› Physician Compare PY 2016 Clinician Downloadable Database Measures Available for Preview
› Physician Compare PY 2016 Non-PQRS QCDR Measures Available for Preview
› Physician Compare PY 2015 Clinician Utilization Data Available for Preview