



# MLN Connects™

## Weekly Provider eNews

Thursday, March 6, 2014

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### MLN Connects™ National Provider Calls

**PQRS: Reporting Across Medicare Quality Reporting Programs in 2014 — Registration Now Open**

*Tuesday, March 18; 1:30-3pm ET*

*To Register: Visit [MLN Connects™ Upcoming Calls](#). Space may be limited, register early.*

This MLN Connects™ National Provider Call provides an overview of how to report across various 2014 Medicare Quality Reporting Programs – including the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, Value-Based Modifier (VBM), and Accountable Care Organizations (ACO). CMS subject matter experts will guide individual eligible professionals, group practices, Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs, and Pioneer ACOs wishing to report quality measures one time during the 2014 program year to maximize their participation in the various Medicare reporting programs.

*Agenda:*

Individual eligible professionals, group practices and ACOs will learn how to:

- Become incentive eligible for 2014 PQRS
- Avoid the 2016 PQRS payment adjustment
- Satisfy the clinical quality measure (CQM) component of the EHR Incentive Program
- Satisfy requirements regarding the 2016 VBM adjustment, if applicable

*Target Audience:* Physicians and other health care professionals, medical group practices, practice managers, medical and specialty societies, payers, and insurers.

Continuing education credit may be awarded for participation in certain MLN Connects Calls. Visit the [Continuing Education Credit Information](#) web page to learn more.

### **Standardized Readmission Ratio for Dialysis Facilities: National Dry Run — Registration Now Open**

*Thursday, March 20; 2:30-4pm ET*

*To Register:* Visit [MLN Connects™ Upcoming Calls](#). Space may be limited, register early.

In 2014, CMS is conducting a national dry run of the Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR) for dialysis facilities. The CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality has contracted with the University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center to develop and implement the dry run. CMS will use this dry run to test the implementation of SRR reporting and to educate dialysis facilities about the measure. This MLN Connects™ National Provider Call focuses on providing stakeholders with information about the SRR, the dry run report, and how the reports can be accessed. After the presentation, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions. For more information about the SRR measure specifications and the dry run process for dialysis facilities, visit the [Dialysisdata.org](#) website.

*Agenda:*

- Introductions and Roles
- Motivation
- Dry Run Overview
- SRR Measure Description
- Report Details
- Resources
- Q&A Session

*Target Audience:* Dialysis clinics and organizations, nephrologists, hospitals with dialysis units, billers/coders and quality improvement experts, and other interested stakeholders.

Continuing education credit may be awarded for participation in certain MLN Connects Calls. Visit the [Continuing Education Credit Information](#) web page to learn more.

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## **CMS Events**

## ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee Meeting

March 19-20; 9-5pm ET

The ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee Meeting provides a public forum to discuss proposed changes to ICD-10. There are three options available to participate in the March meeting:

- Participate via [webcast](#). Registration is not required.
- Participate by phone: 877-267-1577; Meeting ID: 998-975-524. Registration is not required.
- Attend in person at the CMS auditorium in Baltimore. [Registration](#) is now open.

### Meeting Materials:

- [Agenda](#) for procedure topics on March 19
- [Agenda](#) for diagnosis topics on March 20

More information on the ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee Meeting is available on the [CMS](#) website and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website.

## Announcements

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### Help Your Medicare Patients “Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right” During National Nutrition Month® and Beyond

CMS reminds health care professionals that March is National Nutrition Month® – a time to return to the basics of healthful eating. The 2014 theme for this national health observance, sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, encourages everyone to “Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right” by emphasizing that healthy foods can also taste good. [Read more](#).

### The Flu Season Is Not Over: It’s Not Too Late to Get a Flu Vaccine

While influenza activity is decreasing, it remains slightly elevated nationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that flu activity is likely to continue for a number of weeks, especially in parts of the country where activity started later in the season. The predominant virus so far this season continues to be influenza A (H1N1). All flu vaccines offered for the 2013-2014 flu season are designed to protect against influenza A (H1N1). CDC recently released interim estimates of 2013-2014 vaccine effectiveness data indicating that flu vaccination offered solid protection against the flu. Specifically, the findings indicate that vaccination with the 2013-2014 influenza season vaccine reduced the risk of outpatient medical visits due to influenza by approximately 60 percent for children and adults. CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine and urges people who still have not been vaccinated to get vaccinated now. As long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination still offers the best protection against influenza infection.

If you have patients who haven’t yet been vaccinated, discuss the importance of flu vaccination. Offer to vaccinate or refer them to a vaccine provider. People seeking vaccination may need to call more than one provider to locate vaccine at this time. The [Healthmap Vaccine Finder](#) may be helpful in locating available flu vaccine, when appropriate.

As a reminder, generally, Medicare Part B covers one influenza vaccination and its administration each influenza season for Medicare beneficiaries without co-pay or deductible. *Note:* The influenza vaccine is not a Part D-covered drug.

For more information on coverage and billing of the influenza vaccine and its administration, please visit:

- [MLN Matters® Article #MM8433](#), “Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2013-2014 Season.”
- [MLN Matters® Article #SE1336](#), “2013-2014 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals.”

- While some providers may offer flu vaccines, those that don't can help their patients locate flu vaccines within their local community. The [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free online service where users can search for locations offering flu and other adult vaccines.
- [Free Resources](#) can be downloaded from the CDC website including prescription-style tear-pads that will allow you to give a customized flu shot reminder to patients at high-risk for complications from the flu. You can also order free print materials using the [new CDC order form](#). Under "Programs", select "Immunizations and Vaccines (Influenza/Flu)" for a list of flu-related resources.

### HQRP Deadline: FY 2015 Reporting Cycle Data due April 1

As part of the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP), hospices should currently be preparing to submit FY 2015 Reporting Cycle data. The FY 2015 Reporting Cycle consists of reporting on two measures: the structural measure and the National Quality Forum (NQF) #0209 pain measure collected during CY 2013. Data for each measure must be submitted to CMS by 11:59pm ET on April 1, 2014 for FY 2015 payment determination.

The [HQRP Data Entry and Submission Site](#) is now available for data submission. The [Technical User's Guide](#), posted on the [Data Submission](#) web page is the primary reference for the HQRP Data Entry and Submission Site for the FY 2015 Reporting Cycle. Please also refer to the [User Guide for Hospice Quality Reporting Data Collection](#) for information on data collection and how providers will aggregate the NQF #0209 data.

CMS presented information about reporting requirements, provider resources, and important dates for the FY 2015 Reporting Cycle of the HQRP on the March 5 Home Health, Hospice & Durable Medical Equipment Open Door Forum (ODF). An encore audio recording of the ODF will be available until March 7; information is included in the [agenda](#).

### ICD-10 eHealth University Resources

CMS has launched [eHealth University](#), a new go-to resource to help providers understand, implement, and successfully participate in [CMS eHealth programs](#). eHealth University features a full curriculum of materials and information, all in one location. The education modules are organized by level, from beginner to advanced, and simplify complex information in a variety of formats, including fact sheets, guides, videos, checklists, webinar recordings, and more.

As part of eHealth University, CMS is offering several resources to help you prepare for the *October 1, 2014, ICD-10 compliance date*. These include:

- [Introduction to ICD-10](#) – This fact sheet provides an introduction to ICD-10 and explains the key steps for switching to ICD-10.
- [Transition Checklist: Large Practices](#) and [Transition Checklist: Small and Medium Practices](#) – These checklists outline tasks and estimated timeframes for important ICD-10 transition activities for small, medium, and large practices.
- [Basics for Small and Rural Practices](#) – This beginner-level fact sheet provides basics about the ICD-10 transition for small and rural practices, including background on ICD-10, important questions to answer about ICD-10 preparations, and resources to help prepare for the compliance date.
- [Introduction to ICD-10 for Providers](#) - This in-depth guide for providers explains the background behind ICD-10, why the transition is important, how providers can prepare for ICD-10, and important resources to help transition.

Once you have an understanding of the basics of ICD-10 through these beginner-level resources, check out the intermediate and advanced resources also available on the [eHealth University](#) website. By using these tools, you can better prepare for October 1, 2014, and help ensure a smooth transition to ICD-10.

### *Keep Up to Date on ICD-10*

Visit the CMS [ICD-10](#) website for the latest news and resources to help you prepare for the *October 1, 2014*, compliance date. Sign up for [CMS ICD-10 Industry Email Updates](#) and [follow us](#) on Twitter.

## **Claims, Pricers, and Codes**

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### **April 2014 Average Sales Price Files Now Available**

CMS has posted the April 2014 Average Sales Price (ASP) and Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) pricing files and crosswalks. All are available for download on the [2014 ASP Drug Pricing Files](#) web page.

## **MLN Educational Products**

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### **“Clarification of Patient Discharge Status Codes and Hospital Transfer Policies” MLN Matters® Article — Released**

[MLN Matters® Special Edition Article #SE1411](#), “Clarification of Patient Discharge Status Codes and Hospital Transfer Policies” has been released and is now available in downloadable format. This article is designed to provide education on more recently established patient discharge codes 69 and 81-95. It includes a crosswalk for new patient status codes. This article supplements MLN Matters® Special Edition Article #SE0801.

### **2014 Medicare Part C and Part D Reporting Requirements for Data Validation WBT — Released**

The 2014 Medicare Part C and Part D Reporting Requirements for Data Validation Web-Based Training Course (WBT) was released and is now available. This WBT is designed to provide education on the 2014 Medicare Part C and Part D Reporting Requirements for Data Validation. It includes information on planning, performing, analyzing and completing Data Validation (DV) activities. Continuing education credits are available to learners who successfully complete this course. See course description for more information.

To access the WBT, go to [MLN Products](#) and click on “Web-Based Training Courses” under “Related Links” at the bottom of the web page.

### **“Special Instructions for ICD-10 Coding on Home Health Episodes that Span October 1, 2014” MLN Matters® Article — Revised**

[MLN Matters® Special Edition Article #SE1410](#), “Special Instructions for ICD-10 Coding on Home Health Episodes that Span October 1, 2014” was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This article is designed to provide education on further details regarding Home Health claims for episodes that span the October 1 date. It includes a summary table of scenarios. The article was revised to remove references to the General Equivalence Mapping.

### **“The DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program: Physicians and Other Treating Practitioners Who Are Enrolled as Medicare DMEPOS Suppliers” Fact Sheet — Revised**

[“The DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program: Physicians and Other Treating Practitioners Who Are Enrolled as Medicare DMEPOS Suppliers”](#) Fact Sheet (ICN 900926) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on an exception to regular Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) competitive bidding program rules for walkers provided by physicians and other treating practitioners who are enrolled DMEPOS suppliers. It includes information on who can be considered under this exemption.

### **[“The DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program: Hospitals That Are Not Contract Suppliers” Fact Sheet — Revised](#)**

[“The DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program: Hospitals That Are Not Contract Suppliers”](#) Fact Sheet (ICN 905463) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on an exception to regular Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) competitive bidding program rules for walkers provided by hospitals that are not contract suppliers. It includes payment rules under this exception.

### **[“Ambulance Fee Schedule” Fact Sheet — Revised](#)**

The [“Ambulance Fee Schedule”](#) Fact Sheet (ICN 006835) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on the Ambulance Fee Schedule. It includes the following information: background, ambulance providers and suppliers, payments, and how payment rates are set.

### **[“End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System” Fact Sheet — Revised](#)**

The [“End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System”](#) Fact Sheet (ICN 905143) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on the End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System. It includes the following information: background, transition period, payment rates for adult and pediatric patients, outlier adjustments, home dialysis, laboratory services and drugs and biologicals, patient deductible and coinsurance, and End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program.

### **[“Composite Rate Portion of the End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System” Fact Sheet — Revised](#)**

The [“Composite Rate Portion of the End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System”](#) Fact Sheet (ICN 006469) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on the composite rate portion of the End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System (ESRD PPS). It includes the following information: transition period, basic case-mix adjusted composite rate, separately billable items and services, and End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program.

### **[“Quick Reference Information: Home Health Services” Educational Tool — Revised](#)**

The [“Quick Reference Information: Home Health Services”](#) Educational Tool (ICN 908504) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This educational tool is designed to provide education on Home Health services. It includes the following information: qualifying for Home Health services, patient admission to a Home Health Agency, and payment and billing for Home Health services.

### **[“Quick Reference Information: Preventive Services” Educational Tool — Revised](#)**

The [“Quick Reference Information: Preventive Services”](#) Educational Tool (ICN 006559) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This educational tool is designed to provide education on the Medicare-covered preventive services. It includes coverage, coding, and payment information.

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