

**Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Program  
January 13, 2015 National Provider Call  
Announcements and Updates**

**1. Physician Compare Announcements**

- a. CMS is currently evaluating options for a publicly reported benchmark for the Physician Compare website. As noted in the [2015 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule](#), CMS wants to discuss more thoroughly potential benchmarking methodologies with our stakeholders prior to finalizing a future proposal. CMS also wants to evaluate other programs' methodologies, including the Shared Savings Program and Value Modifier, to work toward better alignment across programs. CMS is interested in hearing from stakeholders regarding these potential benchmarking approaches, as well as suggestions on alternative benchmarking methodologies for Physician Compare. These suggestions will be considered to inform future rulemaking for Physician Compare.

All suggestions may be sent to [PhysicianCompare@Westat.com](mailto:PhysicianCompare@Westat.com). You will receive a response confirming that your message has been received. Please feel free to share the mailbox address with any other interested parties. This mailbox is public and will be maintained to receive on-going suggestions. However, all suggestions received by Tuesday, March 3, 2015 may be considered in development of the 2016 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule.

- b. **[Last Chance to Register] Physician Compare Virtual Office Hour Session:**  
CMS will be hosting a Physician Compare Virtual Office Hour session on January 22, 2015. This session will provide CMS the opportunity to directly address questions about Physician Compare and public reporting.

The session will be conducted via WebEx from 11:30am – 12:30pm EST. You can register for the session by emailing the Physician Compare support team at [PhysicianCompare@Westat.com](mailto:PhysicianCompare@Westat.com). Please use the subject line “Physician Compare Virtual Office Hour” and include your name, organization, telephone number, and email address.

All questions will be solicited in advance. Please include your questions with your registration email or send them separately to the e-mail above when prepared. In order to address as many participants as possible, you may submit up to three questions. All questions must be received by 5:00pm EST on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

**2. Submission Timeframes for 2014 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Data**

CMS would like to remind Eligible Professionals of the following 2014 PQRS data submission timeframes:

PQRS Vendor Type	Submission Dates*
CEHRT EHR Direct Product	1/1/2015 – 2/28/2015**
CEHRT EHR DSV	1/1/2015 – 2/28/2015**
QCDR (EHR Incentive Program)	1/1/2015 – 2/28/2015**
QCDR (PQRS Only)	1/1/2015 – 3/31/2015
MOC Incentive Program	1/1/2015 – 3/31/2015
Qualified Registry	1/1/2015 – 3/31/2015
GPRO Web Interface	1/26/2015 – 3/20/2015

\*Submission ends at 8:00 PM ET on the submission end date listed above. Submissions will not be accepted after this time.

\*\*Quality Data Reporting Architecture (QRDA) I and III files will not be accepted after February 28, 2015. Any submissions that occur after February 28, 2015, will not be processed for the EHR Incentive Program.

Note: Submit early and often to ensure data is submitted and questions/issues can be resolved prior to the end of the submission period.

An Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS) account with the “PQRS Submitter Role” is required for these PQRS data submission methods. Please see the [IACS Quick Reference Guides](#) for specifics.

For questions, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk 1-866-288-8912 or via email at [Qnetsupport@hcgis.org](mailto:Qnetsupport@hcgis.org) from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Central Time. Complete information about PQRS is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/index.html>.