

CMS SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS TO UPDATE QIO REGULATIONS

Proposed Rule Open for Comment until September 6

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to offer an opportunity to provide feedback to CMS on a proposed rule that makes revisions to the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) program.

What proposals did CMS make?

In the CY 2014 proposed rule for the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), displayed at the Federal Register on July 8, CMS proposed changes to the QIO regulations, including:

- Expanding the eligibility criteria for QIO contracts.
- Emphasizing the value of multi-disciplinary care teams in the composition of QIO staffs, as well as the role of patients and families in informing QIO operations.
- Modernizing the structure of the program to allow flexibility in the geographic areas that could be served by QIOs and organizing QIOs by function.

How can you access the proposed rule?

The full [CY 2014 OPPS notice of proposed rulemaking is available online](#). In particular, QIO stakeholders may find detail about the QIO-specific regulations in section XVII of the preamble, titled, “Proposed Revisions to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Regulations.” Supporting regulation text is featured towards the end of the rule, and is listed as applicable to 42 CFR 475 and 476.

How can you comment?

Commenters may respond online through Thursday, September 6. To send CMS your comments, or to read others’ comments, visit www.regulations.gov and search for “CMS-2013-0154-0001.”

We look forward to your feedback about this critical program in CMS’ clinical quality improvement portfolio.

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