2010 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program (eRx) – It's Not Too Late to Report for 2010
6/15/10

It's not too late to start participating in the 2010 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program (eRx) and potentially qualify to receive a full-year incentive payment. Eligible professionals (EPs) may begin reporting eRx at any time throughout the 2010 program year of January 1-December 31, 2010 to be incentive eligible. eRx is a separate incentive program from the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), with different reporting requirements. **To successfully meet reporting criteria and be considered incentive eligible, individual EPs must report the eRx measure at least 25 times** (for eligible patient encounters) *and* the Medicare Part B PFS allowed charges for services in the eRx measure's denominator should be comprised of 10% or more of the EP's total 2010 estimated allowed charges.

For 2010, EPs who successfully report the eRx measure will become eligible to receive an eRx incentive equal to 2.0% of their total Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) allowed charges for services performed during the reporting period.

EPs must have adopted a "qualified" eRx system. There are two types of systems: a system for eRx only (stand-alone) or an electronic health record (EHR system) with eRx functionality. Regardless of the type of system used, to be considered "qualified" it must be based on **ALL** of the following capabilities:
- Generating a complete active medication list incorporating electronic data received from applicable pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) if available
- Selecting medications, printing prescriptions, electronically transmitting prescriptions, and conducting all alerts
- Providing information related to lower cost, therapeutically appropriate alternatives (if any). (The availability of an eRx system to receive tiered formulary information, if available, would meet this requirement for 2010)
- Providing information on formulary or tiered formulary medications, patient eligibility, and authorization requirements received electronically from the patient's drug plan, if available.

If you have not yet participated in the eRx program, you can begin by reporting eRx data for January 1-December 31, 2010 using any of the following three options:
- **Claims-based reporting** of the eRx measure. Report only one G-code (G8553) for 2010
- **Registry-based reporting** using a CMS-selected *registry, submitting 2010 data to CMS during the first quarter of 2011
- **EHR-based reporting** using a CMS-selected *electronic health record product, submitting 2010 data to CMS during the first quarter of 2011

Only registries and EHR vendors who have been selected by CMS for the 2010 PQRI/eRx and are on the posted list of registries/EHR vendors are eligible to be considered "qualified" for purposes of the 2010 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program (see http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/08_Alternative%20Reporting%20Mechanism.asp#TopOfPage > Downloads).

Another option is via the Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO); however, these participants (group practices) have already been selected, and this is no longer an option for the 2010 program year.

Claims-based reporting involves the addition of a quality-data code (QDC) to claims submitted for services (occurring during the reporting period) when billing Medicare Part B. EPs also have the option of using a qualified registry to assist in collecting eRx measure data. The registry will submit this quality data directly to Medicare, eliminating the need for adding the QDC to the Medicare Part B claim.

EPs do not need to sign up or pre-register to participate in the 2010 eRx. Reporting one QDC (G8553) for the eRx measure to CMS through claims, or submission via a qualified registry or a qualified EHR will indicate intent to participate.

Although there is no requirement to register prior to submitting the data, EPs should review the educational products CMS has created on how to get started with eRx reporting. To access all available educational resources on eRx, please visit http://www.cms.gov/eRxIncentive/. EPs are encouraged to check the eRx webpage often for the latest information and downloads.

Resources
- *2010 eRx Measure Specification and Release Notes* (EPs should the eRx measure specification documents for the current program year. Refer to the specification for the reporting method applicable to your practice.)
    - o Claims- and registry-based at http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/Downloads/2010_eRx_MeasureSpecificationsandReleaseNotes_121709.zip
    - o EHR-based at http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/Downloads/2010EHRMeasureSpecificationforeRxandReleaseNotes.zip
- *Claims-Based Reporting Principles for Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program* at http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/Downloads/Claims-BasedReportingPrinciplesforeRx122209.pdf
- *2010 eRx Incentive Program Made Simple Fact Sheet* at http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/Downloads/2010eRxMadeSimpleFS032310f.pdf
- *2010 eRx Incentive Program Fact Sheet: What's New for 2010 eRx Incentive Program* at http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/Downloads/WhatsNew2010eRxFS032310f.pdf

Questions?
If EPs have questions on how to get started with eRx, they should contact the **QualityNet Help Desk** at **866-288-8912** from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. CST or via e-mail at qnetsupport@sdps.org.