

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
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**DATE:** September 26, 2011

**TO:** All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Cost Plans, PACE Organizations and Demonstrations

**FROM:** Cheri Rice, Director  
Medicare Plan Payment Group

**SUBJECT:** Reformatted Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) 2010 Data File and Clarification of the Group Practice Reporting Option Data fields

On September 8, 2011 CMS issued an HPMS memo - **Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) 2010 Data File** – announcing the release of the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) 2010 Data File. Some difficulties in extracting the data have been reported. We are posting an updated file in HPMS to address these concerns. The new text file will be in comma separated values (.csv) format. (Reminder: the TIN and NPI fields will need to be converted to text format to retain leading zeros). A registered HPMS user can visit the Data Extract Facility from the Home Page of HPMS. There is a link entitled “Incentive Payments” on the left navigation bar. The user should download the “PQRI file” for “2010” to access this information. Due to the sensitivity of some of the information provided in the file, only your Medicare Compliance Officer will be able to access and download it.

As detailed within the September 8, 2011 HPMS PQRS memo, the entitlement to PQRS incentive payments to individual physicians and qualified professionals is TIN/NPI-combination specific. This is because a given physician/practitioner (identified by NPI) might not be due a PQRS incentive payment in another practice. However, Group practice payments are identified within the data file on HPMS by a TIN only. Thus, for lines where only a TIN is present, the MAO is responsible for paying PQRS bonuses for any and all NPIs for which the MAO paid non-contracting or deemed claims in 2010. MAOs are to pay the PQRS Group practice bonus payments to the same entity that billed them under these group TINs.

If you have any questions regarding the PQRS program, please contact your CMS Account Manager. If you have any questions about this HPMS notice, please contact Julie Uebersax at [Julie.Uebersax@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Julie.Uebersax@cms.hhs.gov). If you encounter technical difficulties when downloading the PQRS file from HPMS, you may contact the HPMS Help Desk at [hpms@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hpms@cms.hhs.gov) or 1-800-220-2028.