

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-23-07
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



DATE: November 19, 2009

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

FROM: Tom Hutchinson, Director
Medicare Plan Payment Group

SUBJECT: **Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) 2008 Data File – RE-ISSUE**

On October 26, 2009, we posted a memorandum and instructions on the 2008 PQRI program that included instructions for downloading a data file. It subsequently came to our attention that the file we provided was incomplete because it did not distinguish between eligible professionals that had earned PQRI bonus incentive payments under FFS Medicare for the entire 2008 calendar year, and those that had earned bonuses for only the last six months of the year. Due to this omission we asked you to suspend the processing of payments until a corrected file was provided.

We are now notifying you that an updated file is available for download via HPMS. This file is an Excel file with only three columns. They are, the TAX ID #, the NPI, and whether the provider is entitled to the PQRI bonus for the entire 2009 calendar year (12 months) or only the last six months of the year (July – December). MA organizations will have 60 days from the date of this memorandum to pay PQRI bonuses to appropriate providers. We are also providing an updated PQRI Medicare Advantage FAQs document, which is attached.

A registered HPMS user can visit the Data Extract Facility from the Home Page of HPMS. There will be a link entitled “PQRI File” on the left navigation bar where the Excel file can be downloaded. 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. Note that Article IX.A. of your CMS contract and 42 CFR 422.504(h) require you to comply with Federal laws and regulations designed to prevent or ameliorate fraud, waste and abuse.

MA organizations should include an explanation with PQRI incentive payments in order to explain the source and reason for the payments.

If you have any questions regarding the PQRI, please contact your CMS account manager. If you have any questions about this HPMS notice, please call Frank Szefflinski on (303) 844-7119.

If you encounter technical difficulties when downloading the PQRI file from HPMS, you may contact the HPMS Help Desk at hpms@cms.hhs.gov or 1-800-220-2028.