

Physician Quality Report Initiative (PQRI) Starts Soon!

Are you a nuclear medicine physician who bills for ANY evaluation and management services? If yes, you might be eligible for the 1.5% bonus that will be given to physicians who participate in the upcoming PQRI program. But you must act fast as the deadline is approaching!

On July 1, 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin the voluntary Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). Although there are no quality measures directly linked to nuclear medicine, NM physicians who perform certain evaluation and management services might be able to participate. In order to receive the 1.5% bonus, a physician must report on the quality measure for at least 80% of the cases in which the measure is reportable. The bonus amount is based on ALL total Medicare allowable charges during the reporting period (July 1 to December 31 2007) for professional and technical services billed under the Physician Fee Schedule and, thus, for a nuclear medicine physician would include all nuclear medicine procedures and radiopharmaceuticals billed, (excluding drugs.)

To assist physicians who may elect to participate, the American Medical Association in collaboration with CMS, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., and the National Committee for Quality Assurance, has developed participation tools. The tools are designed to:

- aid in the selection of measures by physicians and other eligible professionals wishing to participate in the program
- link to background information on the quality measures, including both the rationale and evidence base for each measure
- aid in the data collection required to report clinical performance data

For each of the 74 measures in the program, the tools are now available online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.ama-assn.org/go/toolsMedicarePQRI"](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/toolsMedicarePQRI) \o "blocked::http://www.ama-assn.org/go/toolsMedicarePQRI" <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/toolsMedicarePQRI> \t "_blank" www.ama-assn.org/go/toolsMedicarePQRI

CMS also posted technical corrections to some of the program's measure specifications. Additional information can be found on the CMS website:

[HYPERLINK "http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/ama/license.asp?file=/PQRI/downloads/Measure_Specifications_061807.pdf"](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/ama/license.asp?file=/PQRI/downloads/Measure_Specifications_061807.pdf) \o "blocked::http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/ama/license.asp?file=/PQRI/downloads/Measure_Specifications_061807.pdf" [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/ama/2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative \(PQRI\) Measure Specifications \[PDF, 812KB\] - Updated 06/19/07](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/ama/2007PhysicianQualityReportingInitiative(PQRI)MeasureSpecifications[PDF,812KB]-Updated06/19/07)

[HYPERLINK "http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/Downloads/PQRI_Release_Notes_1.1.pdf"](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/Downloads/PQRI_Release_Notes_1.1.pdf) \o "blocked::http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/Downloads/PQRI_Release_Notes_1.1.pdf"

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/Downloads/PQRI_Release_Notes_1.1.pdf June 18, 2007 Technical Corrections Release Notes, Version 1.1 [PDF, 19KB]

General CMS PQRI website for additional information:

HYPERLINK "<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>" \o "blocked::<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>" <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>