



Mid to Late Year Reporting Possibilities for Medicare's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

The year is more than half over and your practice may be wondering ... "Can we still report PQRI measures and collect the bonus available for the reporting period of 2009?"

The answer is that it's not too late and there are still reporting methods available. Below is a summary to help you determine if participating is a viable option for your practice:

Types of Measures

Individual Measures:

- 153 measures available
- 3 measure minimum (when applicable)
- 80% of the eligible patients
- Reporting period
 - January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009
- Bonus 2%
- Claims based or Registry reporting

To report using individual measures, an individual must report on at least 3 individual measures and must report 80% of the time based on the frequency of the measure for the time period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

It is still possible to report in the final months of the year using this method; however, the patients that will be seen in the remaining timeframe must make up 80% of the patients that are affected by the measures that you choose. For example, if you choose a diabetic measure, the practice will need to see 80% of all of those patients in the final months of the year in order for the submission to be successful.

Measure Groups:

- 7 measure groups available
- 1 measure group minimum
- 80% of the time, or 30 consecutive claims/patients
- Reporting period:
 - January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 (full year/incentive)
 - July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 (partial year/incentive)
- Bonus either 2% (full incentive) or 1% (partial incentive)
- Claims based or Registry reporting

CMS has defined 7 measure groups for 2009. A measure group is a collection of measures (a minimum of 4 measures) that all relate to a certain disease state. When using measure groups, the reporting individual must report on every measure in the group to qualify.

Measure groups differ slightly from reporting individual measures. There is still the option for claims based reporting for the time period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 for 80% of the eligible patients. However, with measure groups, an additional reporting period is offered. The second reporting period is July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 for 80% of the eligible patients. Please be aware, if the second reporting period is utilized, the bonus amount will be paid at 50% as the timeframe is halved.

Measure groups can also be reported using a "30 consecutive claims method." When using this method, you can start at any point throughout the year as long as you still have 30 consecutive claims based on date of service.

Methods of Reporting

A practice can report individual measures or measure groups in two ways. This information can be reported on each individual claim form as the patient is seen for which the measure applies or the practice can use a registry to report. A registry can be an outsourced third party vendor relationship or for some specialties, registries are alternate tracking or reporting mechanisms (such as an immunization registry offered by the state).

Claims Reporting:

- PQRI codes must be reported at time of service
- Cannot go back and file a separate claim form to capture the measures
- PQRI codes are captured as additional CPT II or G codes, each designated for a particular measure
- PQRI codes are billed in addition to the CPT codes for that day with a \$.00 or \$.01 billed amount based on the capabilities of the practice's practice management system.

Registry Reporting:

- Third party vendor submits data on your behalf
- Vendor uploads data from your system to theirs
- Practice may have to supply some additional information about the patients in the selected sample for submission
- Usually a cost associated with using Registry reporting

Reference Web Links

- Medicare PQRI Overview Page: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri/>
- Measures/Groups: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/15_MeasuresCodes.asp#TopOfPage
- Alternate Reporting Mechanisms: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/20_AlternativeReportingMechanisms.asp#TopOfPage
- Analysis and Payment: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/25_AnalysisAndPayment.asp#TopOfPage
- Additional Educational Resources: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/30_EducationalResources.asp#TopOfPage