

A decorative graphic consisting of a curved, multi-colored band that starts with a dark red top edge, transitions through green and yellow, and ends with a light green bottom edge. It spans across the top of the page, tapering off to the right.

## PRACTICE ALERT

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### **ATTENTION: NEGATIVE PQRS PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR 2017**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has distributed letters to clinical social workers and other Medicare providers regarding the 2017 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) negative payment adjustment. The letter informs clinical social workers whether they will receive a 2017 negative payment adjustment for not satisfactorily reporting 2015 PQRS quality measures and as a result, will receive a two percent decrease in reimbursement for 2017 Medicare Part B services.

Clinical social workers may access their 2015 PQRS Feedback Report at the CMS Enterprise Portal: <https://portal.cms.gov/wps/portal/unauthportal/home/>. After reviewing their 2015 PQRS feedback report, clinical social workers who believe they received a 2017 PQRS negative payment adjustment in error, should **submit an informal review request no later than November 30, 2016, 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time**. CMS will investigate your request to determine its merits and make a decision within 90 days of your request. An informal review must be

submitted at the following Web site: [Quality Reporting Communication Support Page](#).

NASW encourages its members who received a 2017 negative payment adjustment letter to give this matter their prompt attention. If a negative adjustment was received in error, file an informal review immediately. NASW has been informed by members that they may have been inappropriately penalized for not using measures which were beyond the scope of practice for social workers. If so, filing an informal review would be warranted. As a reminder, the following NASW link provides examples and instructions for 2015 PQRS measures relevant to clinical social workers:

<http://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-12915.PQRS-PP.pdf>

For additional information and assistance, clinical social workers may contact the QualityNet Help Desk by phone at 1-866-288-8912 or by email at [qnetssupport@hcqis.org](mailto:qnetssupport@hcqis.org) from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Central Time, Monday through Friday.