



PRACTICE ALERT

PQRS ALERT FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS WHO ARE MEDICARE PROVIDERS

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The purpose of this document is to inform clinical social workers who are Medicare providers of two major actions occurring at this time with the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS). The PQRS actions are for the reporting periods of 2015 and 2014.

PQRS 2015

Clinical social workers who are Medicare providers should be aware that PQRS for 2015 will end on **December 31, 2015**. This will be the last day clinical social workers can perform psychotherapy services using PQRS 2015 measures for Medicare beneficiaries. In order to avoid a penalty in 2017 for not reporting PQRS in 2015, PQRS measures must be successfully submitted by claims no later than **February 26, 2016** or by qualified registry no later than **March 31, 2016**. To help members submit PQRS 2015, NASW has prepared the following PQRS documents.

- Reporting Requirements for PQRS 2015 for Individual Measures Used by Clinical Social Workers: Available online at:
<http://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-12915.PQRS-PP.pdf>

- What's New in PQRS 2015 for Clinical Social Workers: Available online at:
<http://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-13415.PQRS-WhatsNew-PP.pdf>
- PQRS 2015 Frequently Asked Questions by Clinical Social Workers:
Available online at:
<http://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-14015.PQRS-FAQs-PP.pdf>
- Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) 2015 Qualified Registries:
Available online at:
<http://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-22815PQRS-PP.pdf>

PQRS 2014

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released PQRS 2014 report letters to Medicare providers including clinical social workers. Clinical social workers who received a letter informing them of a fee penalty in 2016 due to improperly filed PQRS 2014 measures or lack of reporting PQRS 2014, have an opportunity to file by **November 23, 2015**, an informal hearing for review of their PQRS information. This can be done online at the *Physician and Other Health Care Professional Quality Reporting Portal* at the following link:
https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/pqri_home/212. Sign-in to the portal is at the bottom of this Web site and should allow you to secure your feedback report and file for an informal hearing no later than **November 23, 2015**.

ADDENDUM: On November 25, 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services extended the Informal Review deadline to December 16, 2015.

Should you encounter problems filing for an informal hearing or seeking your feedback information from the provider portal, the QualityNet Help Desk may also be of assistance and is available at 866-288-8912 from 7 am to 7 pm CST,

Monday through Friday. If you are unable to reach them by phone, send an email to qnetsupport@sdps.org

Additional information is available about the PQRs 2014 feedback reports and informal hearing process on the Medicare Quality Reporting Communication Support Page at: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Downloads/Tips_for_Using_CSP_2013_Final.pdf

Clinical social workers who choose to file an informal hearing and require PQRs reporting information related to clinical social workers may contact NASW for assistance at the following email address: mcoleman@naswdc.org