

## The National Association of Social Workers

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## What's New in PQRS 2015 for Clinical Social Workers\*

Since 2007, clinical social workers have been reporting the Physical Quality Reporting System (PQRS) which identifies measures used to improve the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries. Because PQRS changes each year, clinical social workers should carefully review the reporting criteria for updates each reporting period. NASW has identified several major **changes in PQRS 2015** which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Three PQRS measures used by clinical social workers were retired:**
  - **#106:** Adult Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): Comprehensive Depression Evaluation: Diagnosis and Severity
  - **#107:** Adult Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) Suicide Risk Assessment
  - **#248:** Substance Use Disorders Screening for Depression Among Patients With Substance Abuse and Dependence
- **PQRS registry reporting is a new concept for clinical social workers.** A qualified registry collects and submits PQRS quality measures data on behalf of

clinical social workers and other Medicare providers. Registry reporting is generally done once per reporting period. A fee may be charged. On May 30, 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) plans to post an online final list of 2015 qualified registries on the Registry Reporting Page of the CMS PQRS Website at the following link: [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Registry-Reporting.html](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Registry-Reporting.html). When the 2015 CMS registry list is made available, NASW will review it and make recommendations for appropriate registries for clinical social workers to use when reporting mental health services.

- **There are a total of 8 claims and registry PQRS measures available for use by clinical social workers in 2015.** Clinical social workers should review the reporting criteria for each of the measures to ensure proper reporting. The 8 measures are:
  - **#128:** Preventive Care and Screening: Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up. Report by Claims or Registry.
  - **#130:** Documentation of Current

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Medications in the Medical Record.  
Report by Claims or Registry.

- **#134:** Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-Up Plan. Report by Claims or Registry.
  - **#173:** Preventive Care and Screening: Unhealthy Alcohol Use – Screening. Report by Registry.
  - **#181:** Elder Maltreatment Screen and Follow-Up Plan. Report by Claims or Registry.
  - **#226:** Preventive Care and Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention. Report by Claims or Registry.
  - **#325:** Adult Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): Coordination of Care of Patients With Specific Comorbid Conditions. Report by Registry.
  - **#402:** Tobacco Use and Help with Quitting Among Adolescents. Report by Registry.
- **The reporting period for PQRS 2015 is January 1 – December 31, 2015.**
  - **Since clinical social workers do not have nine measures for PQRS 2015 reporting, they may report 1 to 8 measures covering at least 1-3 domains.**
  - **Clinical social workers must report at least 1 measure that is cross-cutting.** A cross-cutting measure draws attention to symptoms that are important across diagnoses.
  - **Cross-cutting measures for clinical social work purposes are measure numbers 128, 130, 134, 226, and 402.**
  - **Clinical social workers may receive a minus 2 percent negative payment adjustment in 2017 if they do not report PQRS in 2015. In addition, clinical social workers will be subjected to the value-based modifier (VM) in 2017.** The value-based modifier is a differential payment provided to Medicare providers based on the quality of care furnished compared to cost during

the performance period. If clinical social workers do not report PQRS in 2015, they will receive an additional negative payment adjustment in 2017. **If they successfully report PQRS in 2015, they may receive a positive payment adjustment based on the value-based modifier.**

- **For claims, February 26, 2016 is the last day to report PQRS 2015.**
- **For registry, March 31, 2016 is the last day to report PQRS 2015.**

For a comprehensive review of PQRS 2015, NASW members should review the following NASW PQRS document, "Reporting Requirements for PQRS 2015 for Individual Measures Used by Clinical Social Workers." It is available online at: [www.socialworkers.org/login.asp?ms=restr&ref=/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-12915.PQRS-PP.pdf](http://www.socialworkers.org/login.asp?ms=restr&ref=/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-12915.PQRS-PP.pdf)

For assistance with PQRS, clinical social workers may contact the CMS Quality Net Help Desk.

#### Contact information is:

Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 7:00 pm CST  
866.288.8912

TTY: 877.715.6222.

Email address: [Qnetsupport@sdps.org](mailto:Qnetsupport@sdps.org)

### Additional Resources

*2015 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Measure Specifications Manual for Claims and Registry Reporting of Individual Measures.* 2014. Chicago: American Medical Association.

Available online at:

[www.acr.org/~media/ACR/Documents/PDF/QualitySafety/Quality%20Measurement/2015%20PQRS/2015\\_PQRS\\_IndividualMeasureSpec\\_ClaimsRegistry\\_111014.pdf](http://www.acr.org/~media/ACR/Documents/PDF/QualitySafety/Quality%20Measurement/2015%20PQRS/2015_PQRS_IndividualMeasureSpec_ClaimsRegistry_111014.pdf)

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