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PQRS Frequently Asked Questions by Clinical Social Workers

During 2014, clinical social workers who are Medicare providers should demonstrate quality care by reporting the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) or receive a two percent penalty in 2016 for not using PQRS. The penalty increases each year PQRS is not used. PQRS identifies measures that may be used by clinical social workers to improve the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries. To assist clinical social workers in reporting PQRS, NASW has developed the following document, *Using Medicare PQRS 2014 Individual Measures in Clinical Practice*, which is available online at the following link:

www.socialworkers.org/practice/clinical/WKF-NL-25114.UsingMedicarePP.pdf

NASW has compiled a list of frequently asked questions by its members from "An Hour With Private Practice: Questions and Answers," to help other clinical social workers in private practice understand how the PQRS program works.

Q: What is a quality data code?

A: A quality data code (QDC) identifies a measure used by a Medicare provider to submit PQRS data via a claims-based or other reporting method.

Q: How is the quality data code reported?

A: On the second line following the documentation of psychotherapy services on the CMS-1500 form, the quality data code is reported under the heading of CPT/HCPCS on item line 24D.

Q: Is there a reporting alternative available to clinical social workers who have less than nine PQRS measures available to report?

A: For clinical social workers, 1-8 measures covering 1-3 domains may be reported.

Q: What are domains?

A: Domains are identified by the National Quality Strategy as a list of 6 priorities that address the most common health concerns that Americans face. They are:

- Patient Safety
- Person and Caregiver-Centered Experience and Outcomes
- Communication and Care Coordination
- Effective Clinical Care
- Community/Population Health
- Efficiency and Cost Reduction