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.

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 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
Q: Where are the domains reported?
A: The domains are reported in the patient’s clinical record when using PQRS.

Q: How do clinical social workers know if their PQRS information was accepted on the claim form?
A: On the Explanation of Benefits, denial code NJ365 is indication that the quality data code was received into the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) claims database. NJ365 reads, “This procedure code not payable. It is for reporting/information purposes only.” Effective July 1, 2014, NJ365 will be replaced by NJ620.

Q: What is reported for charges when using PQRS?
A: For 2014 charges, report $0.01. This is a non-chargeable fee provided to help ensure quality data codes are processed in the CMS claims database.

Q: Is PQRS also used with a Medicare Advantage Plan?
A: No, PQRS is reported with Medicare Fee-for-Service, Medicare Secondary Payer Program, and the Railroad Retirement Board.

Q: Are there pediatric PQRS measures available for use by clinical social workers?
A: For clinical social workers, Measure Number 134 is available for use with children 12 years and older. It reads: Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-up Plan.

Q: When is the last day to report PQRS?
A: For 2014, PQRS must be filed by February 27, 2015.

Q: Are there pediatric PQRS measures available for use by clinical social workers?
A: For clinical social workers, Measure Number 134 is available for use with children 12 years and older. It reads: Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-up Plan.

Q: What happens if clinical social workers who are Medicare providers do not report PQRS?
A: In 2014, clinical social workers who do not report PQRS, will be penalized two percent of their Medicare allowable charges in 2016.

Q: How often does one report a PQRS measure?
A: Each measure specification lists the reporting criteria which may vary. The NASW PQRS document describes the reporting criteria for each measure available for use by clinical social workers.

Q: Can a claim be resubmitted to correct PQRS information?
A: A claim cannot be resubmitted to correct PQRS information.

Q: Resources
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.UsingMedicarePQRS.UsingMedicarePQRS.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.

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