

## FAQ Results

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**Question** What is the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)?

**#8233:**

**Answers:** Division B, Title 1, Section 101, of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA) mandates the establishment of a physician quality reporting system by CMS. This system, titled Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), is a voluntary program that will provide a financial incentive to physicians and other eligible professionals who successfully report quality information related to services provided under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule between July 1 and December 31, 2007. The full text of Section 101 of Division B of the TRHCA is available on the CMS PQRI website: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri>

**Question** How does the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) work? What do providers have to do?

**#8235:**

**Answers:** To participate in the 2007 PQRI, physicians and other eligible professionals, as defined by the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA), should begin by reviewing the detailed 2007 PQRI Quality Measure Specifications and selecting measures applicable to their patient panels. The eligible professionals should then report the selected measures by submitting the specified quality-data codes on claims for services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and provided between July 1 and December 31, 2007. The final 2007 PQRI Quality Measure Specifications will be available on the CMS PQRI website (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri>) well in advance of the July 1, 2007, beginning of the reporting period. Registration is not required prior to submitting data for the 2007 PQRI.

**Question** When will the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) 2008 reporting period begin and end? When will incentive payments for 2008 reporting period be made?

**#8286:**

**Answers:** The Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA) authorizes a financial incentive for physicians and other eligible professionals who successfully participate in a voluntary quality reporting program in 2007. It is not clear

whether TRHCA authorizes incentive payments to physicians or other eligible professionals for reporting quality data in 2008.

**Question #8282:** How will measures be identified for inclusion in Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) for 2008?

**Answers:** For 2008, quality measures for eligible professionals must be proposed and finalized through formal notice-and-comment rulemaking. Per the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA), the measures shall: (1) have been adopted or endorsed by a consensus organization, such as the AQA Alliance or National Quality Forum; (2) include measures that have been submitted by a physician specialty organization; (3) are identified by CMS as having used a consensus-based process for development; and (4) include structural measures, such as the use of electronic health records and electronic prescribing technology. The proposed 2008 quality measures set must be published by August 15, 2007, and finalized by November 15, 2007.

**Question #8245:** How many measures are included in the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)?

**Answers:** There are 74 measures identified for 2007 PQRI. The final list can be downloaded from the CMS PQRI website, which is located at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> on the CMS website. The final 2007 PQRI Measure Specifications will be posted on the CMS PQRI website well in advance of the July 1, 2007 start date and will remain in effect for the entire 2007 reporting period.

**Question #8246:** How can I get more information on the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) quality measures?

**Answers:** The final list of 2007 PQRI Measures is posted on the Web at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>. Detailed specifications for each quality measure will be posted on the CMS PQRI website well in advance of the July 1, 2007, beginning of the reporting period. Measure specifications identify the diagnosis and service codes that make a claim eligible for inclusion in the measure's denominator, as well as the quality-data codes to report the measure. These quality-data codes enable calculation of the reporting and performance rates for that measure. The specifications also include instructions for how, when, and by whom the measure is intended to be reported. Additional educational tools will also be provided.

**Question #8240:** Will Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) clinical performance measure results be publicly reported?

**Answers:** No. Quality data reported under the 2007 PQRI will not be publicly reported. CMS will provide confidential feedback reports to participating eligible professionals at or near the time that the lump sum bonus payments are made in mid-2008. There will be no interim feedback during 2007. Access to confidential feedback reports may require eligible professionals to complete an identity-verification process to obtain a login identification and password for a secure interface. However, this process is not required to participate in the 2007 PQRI or to receive a bonus payment.

**Question** If I have other questions regarding the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative #8239: (PQRI), whom should I contact?

**Answers:** The first step is to review the information on the CMS PQRI website. CMS will continually add information and resources to support all eligible participating providers. As information, tools, and materials for PQRI 2007 become available, they will be broadly announced and disseminated via familiar mechanisms, including but not limited to the CMS website at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>. You may also call your carrier. The Provider Call Center Toll-Free Numbers Directory offers providers information on how to contact the appropriate provider call center and is available for download at: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/01\\_Overview.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/01_Overview.asp)

**Question** How does the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) differ from or #8283: relate to CMS' 2006 Physician Voluntary Reporting Program (PVRP)?

**Answers:** The 2007 PQRI will build on and replace the 2006 PVRP, which was implemented as the first step toward pay for performance for physician practices. Under PVRP, for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in 2006, physicians were able to voluntarily report to CMS a starter set of 16 evidence-based performance measures that captured quality of care data. The data were collected via claims using CPT Category II codes and G-codes where CPT codes were not yet available. In December 2006, CMS provided confidential feedback reports containing reporting and performance rates to the physicians who had submitted performance data for the second calendar quarter of 2006. Though PVRP ended December 31, 2006, feedback reports for services provided during the third and fourth calendar quarters of 2006 will be made available during 2007. The 2007 PQRI was established pursuant to the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA). PQRI will provide an incentive payment for eligible professionals who successfully submit quality data for services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and provided July 1 through December 31, 2007. The PQRI is built on and informed by CMS and provider experiences in the 2006 PVRP.