

Preview of Payment Year 2014 Facility Performance Score Reports

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP) to promote high-quality services by outpatient dialysis facilities treating patients with ESRD. The first of its kind in Medicare, this program changes the way CMS pays for the treatment of ESRD patients by linking a portion of payment directly to facilities' performance on quality care measures. The ESRD QIP will reduce payments to ESRD facilities that do not meet or exceed certain performance standards.

For more information about the program, see <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/ESRDQIP/index.html>. If you have questions about the program after reviewing this content, you may reach the CMS ESRD QIP staff by emailing ESRDQIP@cms.hhs.gov.

Please note that this document is an informal reference only, and does not constitute official CMS guidance. Please refer to the implementing regulations.

Preview of Payment Year 2014 Facility Performance Score Reports

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information to Medicare-certified renal dialysis facilities regarding the upcoming Performance Score Preview Period and the Preview Performance Score Reports (PSR). The Payment Year (PY) 2014 Preview PSRs are provided to facilities by CMS as part of the ESRD QIP.

The following information is intended to complement and update CROWN Memo 13-0760-GN, Advance Notice of Distribution of 2013 Dialysis Facility Reports, Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare-Preview for October 2013 Report, and Payment Year 2014 End Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program Performance Score Reports, which was distributed on June 19, 2013.

Overview

As a result of performance on ESRD QIP quality measures established by CMS, dialysis facilities may be subject to a maximum payment reduction of 2% on Medicare claims during 2014. The PY 2014 Preview Period provides facilities an opportunity to review their PSR and ask questions about their scores prior to the application of any payment reductions. All facilities are strongly encouraged to review their scores early in the Preview Period, which begins on July 29, 2013, and ends August 29, 2013.

ESRD QIP: Background, Scoring Structure, and Payment Reductions

The ESRD QIP is a program designed to encourage high-quality care for dialysis patients. CMS established the program in accordance with Section 153(c) of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA). Details of the PYs 2013 and 2014 programs are provided in the final rule published in the *Federal Register* on November 10, 2011 (76 FR 70228), and available online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-11-10/pdf/2011-28606.pdf>.

Under the ESRD QIP for PY 2014, CMS awards points to facilities based on their performance on three clinical measures (anemia management, dialysis adequacy, and vascular access type) and three reporting measures (infection reporting, patient surveys, and mineral metabolism).

CMS compares each facility's performance in the performance period (calendar year 2012) to performance standards to calculate scores for each measure. The individual measure scores are then weighted (clinical measures at 90% and reporting measures at 10%) and combined to derive the facility's Total Performance Score. Facilities that do not achieve the minimum 53 points for their Total Performance Score will have their Medicare payments reduced on a sliding scale for dialysis services delivered during calendar year 2014.

Preview Period Highlights

Facilities will have the opportunity to preview their ESRD QIP PSRs during a set time period. The Preview PSR displays your facility's performance scores and expected payment reduction percentage, and also explains how these scores were calculated. Facilities that are properly credentialed and have created Master Account Holders will be able to view their PSR at www.DialysisReports.org starting July 29, 2013.

The Preview Period for the PY 2014 PSR is July 29, 2013, through August 29, 2013. The period closes 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on August 29, 2013.

Clarification Questions and the Formal Inquiry Process

Throughout the Preview Period, facilities will be able to submit clarification questions—for example, questions related to scoring methodology or what data was included in the calculation of their scores. CMS strongly encourages facilities to review their scores early and submit any clarification questions no later than August 13, 2013, to ensure that a CMS response is received before the Preview Period ends.

If a facility believes it has identified an error in its score, then that facility may submit a single formal inquiry requesting a CMS review of the report. The facility's Medical Director or Facility Administrator must approve the submission of the formal inquiry. CMS will respond to all formal inquiries and clarification questions submitted during the Preview Period (although the response may be transmitted after the Preview Period ends). Please note that CMS will respond to clarification questions and formal inquiries via Arbor Research, CMS's Analytics and Operations Contractor for the ESRD QIP.

Although each facility is permitted to submit only one formal inquiry, facilities are not limited in the number of clarification questions they can submit. If clarification questions are submitted after August 13, 2013, CMS may not be able to resolve those questions before the Preview Period concludes on August 29, 2013.

Public Reporting Requirements

Once the Preview Period has ended, all of the scores will be finalized, after which time all facility scores will be made available to the public. MIPPA requires that CMS provide a Performance Score Certificate (PSC) to each facility that displays the facility's Total Performance Score and scores on the individual measures. PSCs are provided in English and Spanish. Facilities should be prepared to download their PSCs from www.DialysisReports.org in mid-December. Each facility is required by law to display the PY 2014 PSC in both languages in a prominent location on or before the first business day following January 1, 2014, and to keep the certificates on display for the duration of calendar year 2014 (ending 12/31/2014). In addition, CMS will publicly post all facility scores on the Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) website (www.medicare.gov/dialysis) or other CMS-designated websites by January 2014. CMS also releases detailed facility information each year in a "Performance Score Summary Report." It is posted on a CMS-designated website.

Important: It is imperative that each facility ensure their DialysisReports.org log-on credentials are functional so they can download, print, and post the PSC. Facilities experiencing difficulty in accessing the website may receive assistance through the following two methods:

- Email: Support@DialysisReports.org (does not require logging in)
- Call toll-free: (877) 665-1680, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EDT)

PY 2014 ESRD QIP Preview Period National Provider Call: Performance Score Reports Overview for Facilities

On August 7, 2013, CMS will hold a National Provider Call to help facilities understand their PSRs and the underlying ESRD QIP scoring formulas, calculations, and payment reduction policies. The webcast will be recorded and made available at www.cms.gov/live.

Facility Checklist for the ESRD QIP PY 2014 Preview Period

✓	Date	Action
✓	Beginning June 1, 2013	Facilities should review instructions provided by Networks for accessing their DFR and Preview PSRs on www.DialysisReports.org .
✓	June 28, 2013	All facility DFR master account credentials (log-on and password) were reset.
✓	Beginning July 29, 2013	Facilities download preview PSR documents from www.DialysisReports.org and review their scores, making note of any outstanding questions or potential issues.

	<p>July 29 to August 29, 2013</p>	<p>Facilities can submit clarification questions and formal inquiries about their PSR according to instructions found on www.DialysisReports.org.</p> <p><i>Although facilities may submit clarification questions after August 13, 2013, CMS may not be able to resolve every question posed after this date prior to the close of the Preview Period.</i></p>
	<p>August 7, 2013 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (EDT)</p>	<p>CMS hosts the “Reviewing Your Facility’s PY 2014 Performance Data” webcast.</p>
	<p>August 29, 2013 5:00 p.m. (EDT)</p>	<p>Deadline for facilities to submit its sole formal inquiry and clarification questions regarding its scores. Formal inquiries will be submitted according to instructions found on www.DialysisReports.org.</p> <p><i>Formal inquiries and clarification questions will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on August 29.</i></p>