



Snohomish County Medical Society

Update: January 2009

SCMS Helps Get the Word Out!!

New in 2009: SCMS monthly online newsletter will include an announcements section. Member wishing to post information about new members within a practice, equipment for sale, space for lease may submit their announcements to the SCMS, anne@wsma.org. Announcements are subject to review by SCMS before posting.

2009 PQRI coding and data collection worksheets available

As the principal developer of many of the PQRI clinical measures, as well the CPT Category II codes used in the program, the AMA created worksheets to assist participants with data collection, coding and reporting of measures and groups of measures. We commend AMA's work on these useful tools, which you can access through the following links:

Worksheets for the [2009 PQRI quality measures](#).

Worksheets for the [2009 PQRI measures groups](#).

National CMS provider call regarding the 2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) announced it will host a national provider conference call on the 2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). This toll-free call will take place from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., EST, on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Following a short presentation on what's new for the 2009 PQRI, the lines will be opened to allow participants to ask questions of CMS PQRI subject matter experts.

According to CMS, registration will close at 1:30 p.m. EST on January 13, 2009, or when available space has been filled. No exceptions will be made, so please be sure to [register](#) prior to this time.

Eligible professionals who meet the criteria for satisfactory submission of quality measures data for services furnished during the reporting period, January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009, will earn an incentive payment of 2.0 percent of their total allowed charges for Physician Fee Schedule covered professional services furnished during that same period. The 2009 PQRI consists of 153 quality measures and 7 measures groups.

[More information about the 2009 PQRI.](#)

For those of you unable to attend, a replay option will be available shortly following the end of the call. According to CMS, this replay will be accessible from 2:30 p.m. EST 1/14/2009 until 11:59 p.m. EST 1/21/2009. The call - in data for the replay is (800) 642-1687 and the passcode is 79451256.

CMS posts clarification on lease of equipment and nonphysician personnel

Confusion has surrounded a new Medicare regulation that took effect Jan. 1 requiring entities providing mobile diagnostic testing services to enroll as independent diagnostic testing facilities (IDTFs) and to bill Medicare directly for all services provided to program beneficiaries. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) included this rule in the 2009 Medicare physician fee schedule. It contains an exception for services provided under arrangement with a hospital.

In promulgating this new regulation, CMS declined to define entities that furnish mobile diagnostic services. In the preamble to the regulation, the agency indicated the term would include entities that lease both diagnostic testing equipment and technicians to physician offices, even when the services are supervised by the billing physician.

In response to questions and concerns raised by many in the provider community, CMS used the "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs) section of its Web site to clarify the regulation. Replying to a question from a company that leases equipment and personnel, CMS stated that companies that lease or contract to provide diagnostic testing equipment, nonphysician personnel or diagnostic testing equipment and nonphysician personnel to a Medicare-enrolled provider or supplier are not required to enroll as mobile IDTFs. CMS indicated, however, that it was concerned about arrangements in which a Medicare-enrolled provider bills for a service when a contracted entity provides the equipment and nonphysician personnel. CMS will continue to evaluate these types of arrangements.

As informal agency guidance, these FAQs do not have the same legal weight as the text of the regulations, but they provide insight into CMS' interpretation of its regulations.

[Access to the FAQs.](#)

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