

## **PQRI News: 2007 payments now being sent automatically but providers must register online for reports; Congress extends PQRI to 2010 and raises bonus payment rate**

CMS announced on July 18 that more than \$36 million in bonus payments will be made to the more than 56,700 eligible PQRI participants who satisfactorily reported quality information to Medicare under the 2007 PQRI. Payments will be distributed electronically to the Tax ID Number (TIN) by August. The average incentive amount for individual professionals is \$600 and the average incentive payment for a physician group practice is over \$4,700.

To receive a feedback report with information on reporting rates, clinical performance, and incentives earned, providers must register with CMS in the *Individuals Authorized to Access to CMS Computer Services* (IACS) System. Reports were available starting July 15. To access the IACS website, visit:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MMAHELP/07\\_IACS.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MMAHELP/07_IACS.asp)

Within the 277 page “Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act,” P.L. 110-275 passed by congress over the President’s veto, was a provision extending the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) through 2010. The new law also increases the payment bonus for physicians who successfully report on the PQRI measures to 2 percent (up from 1.5 percent in 2007 and 2008).

AAHPM has been working with the AMA PCPI to develop additional measures appropriate to hospice and palliative medicine. A palliative care work group, co -chaired by Dr. Sydney Dy and Dr. Neil Wenger met in the spring to work out definitions for additional quality measures applicable to the HPM population. As of July, only two of the proposed measures (dyspnea and advanced care plan) looked like they would advance to a vote before the full PCPI in time to be included in the 2009 list of available measures. The work group plans to continue to develop additional measures in pain, plan of care, and depression.

AAHPM is interested in knowing about your experience with PQRI. If you participated in the 2007 PQRI, please email [info@aaahpm.org](mailto:info@aaahpm.org) stating the measures you submitted, whether you participated on your own or as part of a larger practice, and any comments about your overall experience with PQRI so far.