

1. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH PQRS MEASURES EACH YEAR

The rules for PQRS change slightly each year. There are often new measures, changes in the old measures and some measures are dropped. Once you are on-board, it will be a matter of understanding the changes.

2. REFER TO SPECIALTY WEBSITES FOR PQRS INFORMATION | CMS, ACR & SIR

Information is available all over the web- for radiologists, the best place to start is the CMS, ACR and SIR websites. These specialty societies have dedicated webpages to informing you of PQRS and other quality metrics that affect your payment systems

3. START REPORTING EARLY AND BE CONSISTENT

4. REPORT AS MANY MEASURES AS YOU CAN IDENTIFY

Since you cannot predict the referrals you will receive, it is important to select and report on as many of the measures as you can. This will help ensure you obtain 9 measures and, with the additional measures, you will be able to choose the 9 measures with the highest performance scores.

5. CONSISTENCY IMPROVES PERFORMANCE SCORES | MODIFY YOUR TEMPLATE

Consistency improves your performance scores so most radiologists have modified their templates to prompt them to include the information needed to report each measure. Know that your consistent reporting increases your scores and these scores affect your payments.

6. PERFORMANCE SCORES AFFECT YOUR MEDICARE PAYMENTS

The physicians' performance scores will be used to determine the group's Value Modifier and this modifier will affect the group's Medicare payments. Good performance scores have the ability to increase the Medicare reimbursement, just as poor scores will reduce the group's Medicare payments. This is in addition to the PQRS penalty for non-reporting that reduces the individual physician's reimbursement.

7. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE PHYSICIAN COMPARE WEBSITE

The Physician Compare Website reflects your individual performance scores and is available to everyone. You will want to keep an eye on your individual data.

8. THE GROUP'S REIMBURSEMENT IS AFFECTED BY INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE

Each physician's individual performance not only affects that physician's Medicare payments, it affects the group's reimbursement as well