The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have made the following changes to PQRS reporting for 2013:

- Ophthalmologists who are successful in PQRS participation in 2013 will receive a 0.5 percent payment incentive of all their allowable amounts (less durable medical equipment and any injectable drug) for Medicare Part B, Medicare as a secondary payer, and Railroad Medicare payments.
- Glaucoma staging codes 365.70, 365.71, 365.72, 365.73, 365.74 have been removed from measures 12 and 141.
- Measure 124: Health Information Technology has been eliminated.
- Cataract group measure reporting requirement has been lowered to 20 surgical patients instead of 30. Of the 20 patients, a majority (11) must be Medicare Part B patients.
  - Note Physicians will be unable to report the cataract measure group until April.
  - Patient surveys will be online vs. mail in surveys. However, they may be paper if the patient requests.

**2013 Participation Determines Payment Cuts in Future Years**

CMS will use 2013 PQRS participation to determine payment cuts in future years.

Physicians who neither attempt participation in 2013 by reporting any three of the ophthalmic specific measures, nor submit data for the cataract measure group, will see a 1.5 percent decrease in their 2015 Medicare Part B, Medicare as a secondary payer, and Railroad Medicare payments. Ophthalmologists of all specialties may participate in PQRS.

Incentives tied to PQRS reporting:

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<td><strong>Successful Reporting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Unsuccessful Reporting</strong></td>
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**Still Time to Report 2012 Data**

Practices still have an opportunity to report their 2012 data for three PQRS measures, by reporting through a CMS-approved registry. Because data reported by registry does not have to be submitted in real time, practices have until Jan. 31, 2013, to report their 2012 data.

This option exists those who have not been reporting via claims, or, for those who do not think their claims-based reporting will be successful.

The Academy and ASCRS have partnered with Outcome Registry. Contact Outcome directly if you are interested in reporting 2012 data.

T: 617-715-6898
E: ophthalmicdatabase@outcome.com
www.outcome.com/pgri.htm
2011 Reporting Appeals Process

PQRS incentive payments for 2011 reporting have been distributed. If you did not receive an incentive payment, but believe you met the reporting requirements, it may be in your best interest to request an informal review. CMS will process valid informal-review requests received from Nov. 1, 2012, through Feb. 28, 2013.

Reporting requirements for 2011: Three measures had to be correctly reported a minimum of 80 percent of the time via claims or registry reporting.

How to start review-request process:

Obtain the individual physician’s 2011 PQRS feedback report. These were made available prior to Nov. 1, 2012.

Feedback reports are available in one of two formats:

1. Individual NPI Reports. Individual NPI-level feedback reports can be requested through the Quality Reporting Communication Support Page Related Links (upper left), and will be emailed to the physician within two weeks following the request.

2. IACS account is required for TIN level reports

If additional help is needed, contact QualityNet Help Des at 866.288.8912 or gnetsupport@sdps.org. They can assist with portal-password issues; PQRS and e-prescribing feedback report availability and access; IACS registration questions and login issues; and program and measure-specific questions. Be prepared to provide basic information such as name, practice, address, phone and email.

Only one informal review request can be submitted for each NPI. Duplicate requests will be denied.

The informal-review decision will be provided via email within 60 days of receiving a valid review request. Decisions will be final.

Opportunity to Appeal 2013 E-Prescribing Penalty Status

For the first time, CMS will offer physicians who believe they are incorrectly receiving the 1.5 percent e-Prescribing penalty in 2013 the opportunity to request an informal review of their status. CMS is now in the process of notifying physicians who will receive the penalty on Jan. 1. Notifications will be sent by mail. Physicians who believe they have met the e-prescribing requirements can now email their informal review request via e-mail to eRxInformalReview@cms.hhs.gov. Requests should include the physician’s National Provider Identifier (NPI), contact information (e-mail, telephone, mailing address) and a justification for requesting the informal review. Physicians who qualify for an exemption from the 2013 e-Prescribing penalty still have until Jan. 31 to request an exemption through the Communications Support Page. More information on the e-prescribing program is available at www.aao.org/e-rx.

For additional information, visit www.aao.org/pqrs or www.aao.org/e-rx, or email pqrs@aao.org