



# NEWS & NOTES FROM NPO



NORTHERN  
PHYSICIANS  
ORGANIZATION

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If you are NOT in the ACO in 2015, you HAVE to look at this!

**Physician Value-Based Payment Modifier - Act Now**

Several years ago, Congress authorized the creation of a "carrots and sticks" initiative to incentivize physicians and other eligible providers (EPs) to report on specified quality measures. Over the years, the Physician Quality Reporting System (formerly known as the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative/PQRI) has evolved to include more than 250 measures, various reporting options, and alignment with other federal programs.

One example of this alignment is with the Physician Value-based Payment Modifier (PVPM) program. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to apply a value modifier to Medicare fee-for-service payments on a per claim basis. The value modifier reflects both quality and cost of care will be applied to Medicare Fee- for-Service payments on a per claim basis.

Participation in PQRS will affect a physician's Medicare payment adjustment (positive, neutral, or negative) under the PVPM beginning in 2015 for physicians in practices of 100 or more EPs, 2016 for physicians in practices of 10 or more, and 2017 for all physicians. Of note, for 2015 and 2016, the Value Modifier does not apply to groups of physicians in which any of the group practice's physicians participate in the Medicare Shared Savings Program, Pioneer ACOs, or the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative.

EPs who do not report PQRS will be subject to an automatic downward payment adjustment that is separate from the PQRS non-participation penalty. Therefore, it is more important than ever for physicians who treat Medicare patients and are not currently participating in PQRS to consider whether participation in PQRS makes sense for them and their practice.

Group practices with 10 or more eligible professionals can avoid the automatic -2.0% Value Modifier payment adjustment in calendar year (CY) 2016 by participating in PQRS in CY 2014 and meeting the satisfactory reporting criteria. If your group already registered to participate in the PQRS GPRO in 2014, make sure to report CY 2014 performance by the published submission deadlines. If your group did not register to participate in the PQRS GPRO in CY 2014, make sure that at least 50% of the EPs in the group participate in PQRS as individuals and meet the requirements to avoid the CY 2016 PQRS payment adjustment.

Value Modifier Policies for 2015, 2016 & 2017

Value Modifier Components	2015 Finalized Policies	2016 Finalized Policies	2017 Finalized Policies
Performance Year	2013	2014	2015
Group Size	Physicians in groups with 100 or more EPs	Physicians in groups with 10 or more EPs	Physician solo practitioners and physicians in groups with 2 or more EPs
Quality-Tiering	Elect quality-tiering = upward, neutral, or downward VM adjustment OR Don't elect quality-tiering = no adjustment	Groups with 10-99 EPs receive only the upward or neutral VM adjustment (no downward adjustment)  Groups with 100+ EPs can receive upward, neutral, or downward VM adjustment	Groups with 2-9 EPs and solo practitioners receive only the upward or neutral VM adjustment (no downward adjustment)  Groups with 10+ EPs can receive upward, neutral, or downward VM adjustment
Maximum payment at risk	-1%	-2%	-2% (groups with 2-9 EPs and solo practitioners) -4% (groups with 10+ EPs)

Find additional information on the PVPM at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeedbackProgram/ValueBasedPaymentModifier.html> or via the CMS QualityNet Help Desk at 1-866-288-8912 or [qnetsupport@hcqis.org](mailto:qnetsupport@hcqis.org).

You may also direct questions to Stacey P. Hettiger, MSMS Director of Medical and Regulatory Policy, at (517) 336-5766 or [shettiger@msms.org](mailto:shettiger@msms.org).

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### Quick Links...

[NPO Website](#)

[NMHN Website](#)

Calendar

[NPO Calendar](#)





*Wishing you a safe, happy, and relaxing holiday season!*

***As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have!***

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