Update on CMS Incentive Program, Payment, and Remittance Advice Information (PQRS, ERx, EHR, HSIP, PCIP)

Quarterly and annually, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issues special incentive payments to eligible professionals (EP) that participate in the following incentive programs:

- Primary Care Incentive Program (PCIP),
- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Surgical Incentive Payment Program (HSIP),
- Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), which was formerly known as the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI),
- E-Prescribing (ERx),
- Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs.

For details about participation in these programs and the program requirements, go to the following Web sites:

**PCIP** Program Information - MM7060 (No registration required)
**HSIP** Program Information - MM7063 (No registration required)
**PQRS** Incentive Program Information – http://www.cms.gov/PQRS/ (No registration required)
**ERx** Incentive Program Information – http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/ (No registration required)
**EHR** Incentive Program Information – http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/ (Registration required)

**Incentive Payment Information**

Payments for the **PCIP** and the **HSIP** Incentive programs will made on a quarterly basis issued with the HPSA bonus payments. You will receive a remittance advice indicating the amount for each incentive. This remittance advice will be entitled the **Special Incentive Remittance Advice**. To find out if you qualify for the PCIP incentive payment, please enter your NPI in the PCIP Lookup Tool on the NGS Medicare web site under Resources. Primary care providers that have newly enrolled with Medicare in 2010 can determine their eligibility by accessing this tool on or after November 28, 2011.

Payments are expected for the **2010 ERx Incentive Program** between August and September of 2011 and are being received now.

On your remittance you will see RX10 or the statement “This is an eRx incentive payment,” see Remittance section below for more information.

Please also review the CMS guides for the incentive payment and feedback reports for **ERx** at:

A Guide for Understanding the 2010 eRx Incentive Payment
A Guide for Understanding the 2010 eRx Feedback Report (2 MB)
Payments are expected for the 2010 PQRS Incentive Program between September and October of 2011. On your remittance you will see PQ10 or the statement “This is an PQRS incentive payment,” see Remittance section below for more information. Please also review the CMS guides for the incentive payment and feedback reports for PQRS at:

A Guide for Understanding 2010 PQRI Incentive Payment

In 2011, the ERx and PQRS incentive payments and feedback reports will be issued separately. CMS is making every effort to ensure the feedback reports are issued as close as possible to the incentive payments. E-mail Updates will be issued to all providers as soon as the feedback reports are available. To stay informed, please use this opportunity to sign up for the E-mail Updates.

The EHR Incentive program has begun in 2011. Information is not available as of yet regarding the payment timeframes. For information relating to the EHR program, please access the Web site at http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/.

Remittance Advice Information

All incentive payments will have a PLB Reason Code of “LE” to indicate a “Lump Sum” payment. The definition for “LE” will also be located in the Glossary section of your remittance advice.

Incentive payments will often appear on your remittance advice as a negative amount. This is due to accounting principles.

For PQRS and ERx incentive payments, the last four (4) characters of the Financial Control Number (FCN) will indicate the type of payment and the year that the payment is for. “PQ” will indicate a PQRS payment, and “10” will indicate it was for PQRS measures submitted in 2010.

“RX” will indicate an ERx payment, and “10” will indicate it was for ERx measures submitted in 2010.

Paper Remittances may also contain the statements “This is an eRx incentive payment” or “This is a PQRS incentive payment”.

EHR information for the remittance advice is not currently available.

The Special Incentive Remittance Advice for HSIP and PCIP incentive payments will be issued quarterly. All incentives payments will be outlined appropriately on that remittance advice.

For guidance on this issue, contact us through the Third Party Insurance Help Program.