



TrailBlazer Health Enterprises® Medicare Contractor Updates listserv - August 27, 2008

TrailBlazerSM is sharing the following information received from CMS' Education Resource Listservs.

★ Part A & B

Localities Under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule - Availability of an Interim Study of Alternative Payment Localities Under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

Medicare is statutorily required to adjust payments for physician fee schedule services to account for differences in costs due to geographic location. There are 89 different localities that have not been revised since 1997. In the CY 2009 Physician Fee Schedule notice of proposed rulemaking released June 30, 2008, CMS indicated a preliminary study of several options for revising the payment localities would be posted on the CMS Web site. The report entitled "Review of Alternative GPCI Payment Locality Structures," which was produced by Acumen, LLC under contract to CMS, may be found at the following link:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/downloads/ReviewOfAltGPCIs.pdf>.

CMS' study of possible alternative payment locality configurations is in the early stages of development. At this time CMS is not proposing to make any changes to the payment localities. CMS encourages interested parties to submit comments on the options presented in the report as well as suggestions for other options. These comments will be considered in the development of possible future notice and comment rulemaking. When CMS is ready to propose any changes to the locality configuration, extensive opportunities for public comment will be provided (for example, a town hall meeting or open door forum) on specific proposals before implementing any change.

Electronic comments on the interim report may be submitted to CMS at MPFS@cms.hhs.gov until October 20, 2008.

(200808-25)

★ Part B

Information for Eligible Professionals Who Participated in the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

CMS is pleased to announce 2007 PQRI Final Feedback Reports are available on a secure Web site. Two MLN Matters articles on accessing the reports are now available that can assist individual eligible professionals and group practices that reported valid 2007 PQRI quality measures data to Medicare. The reports are organized by Tax Identification Number (TIN). For eligible professionals reporting measures

for 2007 PQRI under a group practice TIN, the group practice determines who can access the feedback report for the group practice or organization.

The first article, "Steps for Individual Eligible Professionals to Access Their 2007 PQRI Feedback Reports Personally," SE 0830, can be accessed at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0830.pdf>.

The second article, "Steps for Organizations to Access Their 2007 PQRI Feedback Reports," SE 0831, is available at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0831.pdf>.

Any questions about the feedback report should be directed to the Report Delivery System Help Desk referenced at the end of the MLN Matters articles. You should first register for access through the Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS) system to receive an IACS user ID and password, which you will use to access the PQRI feedback report. Additional educational resources and information about the PQRI program are available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>.

(200808-28)

Please share this listserv with others in your organization who would benefit from receiving timely and accurate Medicare information pertaining to this specialty. Instructions to join the [TrailBlazer general and specialty listservs](#) are linked for their reference.

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