



Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

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Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) is a program that began July 1, 2007, and will go through December 31, 2007. This is a voluntary program in which all qualified Medicare providers will be paid a bonus for reporting certain specified quality measures as they apply to the services provided to Medicare patients. These PQRI quality measures relate to important processes of care that are linked to improved healthcare quality outcomes. Participants do not have to register to participate in PQRI. Providers

will report the services provided using G codes. There are specific hematologic and oncologic related quality measures which include: hormonal therapy for Stage I-C to III, ER/PR positive breast cancer patients, chemotherapy for Stage III colon cancer patients, plan for chemotherapy documentation before chemotherapy is administered, baseline flow cytometry studies performed for CLL, intravenous bisphosphonate therapy for multiple myeloma, documentation of iron stores prior

to initiating erythropoietin for MDS, and baseline cytogenetic testing performed on bone marrow for MDS or acute leukemia. CMS has indicated that while the measurement period will be from July 2007 through December 31, 2007, the payment will not be made until after February 28, 2008. Oncology Associates urges its members to stay updated on PQRI and check the program's website at www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri.

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Patient Access Network Foundation



www.patientaccessnetwork.org

The Patient Access Network Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment.

Available disease funds include breast cancer, colorectal cancer, multiple myeloma and several other diseases. The website describes how to apply for funds, products and services and donation information.