

You are invited to participate in a Healthy Populations quality improvement initiative offered by IFMC-IL, the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for the state of Illinois. The mission of QIOs is to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of services delivered to Medicare beneficiaries. QIOs are federally-funded and provide services related to specific initiatives free-of-charge to providers. **We are providing both a specific Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) project and an overall Prevention & Technology Learning and Action Network (LAN).**

PQRS: Consistent with national healthcare goals to expand Electronic Health Record (EHR) use and functionality, CMS is encouraging providers to begin reporting PQRS using the via EHR method.

The PQRS Incentive Program is sponsored by CMS. In 2012 and 2013, physicians are eligible to receive a 0.5% incentive payment stemming from their Medicare Part B physician fee schedule charges for reporting of certain quality measures. Beginning in 2013, physicians who do NOT report PQRS will be subject to a payment reduction in 2015.

Eligibility: The following criteria must be met:

- Provider must be using (or planning to use) a “qualified” EHR.*
- Provider must be eligible for the PQRS incentive program, as defined by CMS.*
- Provider must be willing and able to report three of the following PQRS preventive care measures in 2012 :
 - #110: Influenza Immunization for Patients ≥ 50 Years
 - #111: Pneumonia Vaccination for Patients 65+
 - #112: Screening Mammography
 - #113: Colorectal Cancer Screening
 - #226: Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention
 - #237: Hypertension: Blood Pressure Management

*Consult the CMS PQRS website for specific information on PQRS eligibility and a list of the 2011 Qualified EHRs (2012 coming soon) <http://www.cms.gov/pqrs/>. In general, most providers that bill under the Medicare Part B physician fee schedule are eligible for participation.

What is the Healthy Populations Prevention & Technology LAN?

The Healthy Populations Preventive & Technology LAN is a coalition focused on improving population health by utilizing technology, data, and evidence based practices. The LAN will provide its participants ongoing opportunities to apply quality improvement techniques to cardiac, prevention and early detection/screening measures; to learn how to utilize EHRs to improve care management; and learn best practice among peers. (An EHR is not required to participate in the LAN.)

Benefits of Participation:

- PQRS offers financial incentives to eligible providers for participation
- A full understanding of measures and documentation is necessary to be successful, and IFMC-IL will lead you through all steps
- Routine monitoring of PQRS measures throughout the year will help ensure there are no surprises once data are submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) for incentives and public reporting
- A regional Learning and Action Network (LAN) with peer to peer learning, addressing cardiac health and PQRS measurements. To include seminars, training sessions, WebEx, teleconferences and practice improvement activities.
- Aligns with healthcare movements such as Meaningful Use, Medical Homes, Clinical Integration, Million Hearts, and the National Prevention Strategy.

IFMC-IL Services Include: Individual Provider assistance and/or assistance through the Prevention & Technology Learning and Action Network to:

- Assist in selecting measures for improvement
- Teach QI methods – specifically Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA)
- Assess workflow
- Identify barriers and solutions
- Assist in capturing data
- Assist in data submission
- Monitor improvement – analyze data
- Facilitate learning from content experts on cardiac, prevention, early detection/screening, and technology
- Facilitate the sharing of best practices between participants; focusing on cardiac, prevention, early detection /screening, and technology
- Link patients and practices to community resources to support healthy lifestyles

Healthy Populations is flexible to meet your needs and interests. Contact IFMC-IL to learn how to take advantage of your no cost QIO resources today.

Linda Brewer
Quality Improvement Facilitator
IFMC-IL
lbrewer@ilqio.sdps.org
630-928-5819

Gena Graves
Sr. Quality Improvement Facilitator
IFMC-IL
ggraves@ilqio.sdps.org
630-928-5834

Toby Rulo
EHR Advisor
IFMC-IL
trulo@ilqio.sdps.org
630-928-5866