

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY FORUM

Value-Based Purchasing and the CMS 2008 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

Barbara J. Connors, DO, MPH

Chief Medical Officer

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DHHS Region III

June 11, 2008

Pay for performance, lexicon of the federal Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), is on the minds of virtually everyone in healthcare since the program's 2007 authorization. The initiative is perhaps the most dramatic and far-reaching change in the US healthcare system since the inception of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s. Under the auspices of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a financial incentive is provided to physicians, therapists, and practitioners for voluntarily reporting claims (Medicare billing) data for certain quality measures.

Dr. Barbara Connors, Chief Medical Officer of the CMS Region III office, spoke in depth about PQRI. Dr. Connors began with a program overview, then reviewed and clarified virtually all aspects of the PQRI program. Among the new additions for 2008 are two reporting approaches: registry- and electronic health record (EHR)-based reporting (CMS is pilot testing both), and new quality measures (a total of 119 measures in seven categories). Financial incentives earned for the 2008 reporting period will be paid in mid-2009. Dr. Connors concluded her talk with a summary of lessons learned as PQRI unfolds.

For more information on PQRI and CMS' value-based purchasing efforts, please see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri> or contact Dr. Connors at: Barbara.Connors@cms.hhs.gov.

To listen the podcast for this forum, refer to <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/hpforum>.