

# Medicare Minutes

## CMS Online Manual

The CMS Online Manual System shows Medicare contractors, providers, and state agencies how to navigate the CMS online manual system. Download help from [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/on-linebrochure.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/on-linebrochure.pdf) or order print copies at [http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc\\_frame.asp?kc\\_ident=kc0001&loc=5](http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5).

## Medicare Appeals Process

An overview of the Medicare Part A and Part B administrative appeals process is available to providers, physicians, and other suppliers in PDF form at [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MedicareAppealsProcess.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MedicareAppealsProcess.pdf). Order print copies at [http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc\\_frame.asp?kc\\_ident=kc0001&loc=5](http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5).

## Outpatient Maintenance Dialysis

The End-Stage Renal Disease Fact Sheet provides general information about outpatient maintenance dialysis for End-Stage Renal Disease, the composite payment rate system, and separately billable items and services. See [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ESRDpaymtfctsht08-508.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ESRDpaymtfctsht08-508.pdf).

## 2008 PQRI Fact Sheet

Visit CMS at [www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI) to get a copy of the 2008 Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Fact Sheet. Click the Educational Resources tab, scroll down to the “Downloads” section and click on the “2008 PQRI Fact Sheet” link.

## Updates to Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

MM5980—April Update to the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB) is available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5980.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5980.pdf).

MM5970—Website for Additions and Deletions of ZIP Codes Requiring a Plus Four ZIP Code Extension is found at the same Web site.

Look for MM5970.pdf. MM5994—April 2008 Update to the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System; Summary of Payment Policy Changes is available at the same MLN-Matters Article link using the following PDF name: MM5994.pdf.

MM5971—CR 5550 Clarification—Signature Requirements can be accessed at the same link with the ending MM5971.pdf.

MM5999—April 2008 Update of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) is also available at this link (use MM5999.pdf).

SE0812—Use of Professional Society Practice Parameters in Properly Providing Allergen Immunotherapy to Medicare Beneficiaries, can be accessed as SE0812.pdf.

## CMS Tightens PQRI Measures

Based on first-year results, Medicare is preparing to tweak and improve the PQRI program for this year. In 2008 PQRI participants must report on 119 measures including stats on the practices’ adoption of health information technology. The 1.5% bonus won’t change, though it will be awarded based on the higher 2008 physician fee schedule.

## Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) Software

Check out the benefits of MREP software to ease reporting. Version 2.3 is still available for free download at [www.cms.hhs.gov/AccessToDataApplication/02\\_MedicareRemitEasyPrint.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AccessToDataApplication/02_MedicareRemitEasyPrint.asp). MPM