

Medicare Minutes

NEW Guided Pathways Products

Three [new booklets](#) from the Medicare Learning Network (MLN) incorporate existing MLN products and other CMS resources into sections that can help Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) providers and suppliers find information to understand and navigate the Medicare program. They offer an overview of Medicare and detailed FFS policies and requirements.

Expanded Benefits Brochure

The [Expanded Benefits Brochure](#) provides an overview of Medicare's coverage of three preventive services: the initial preventive physical examination (IPPE), ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms, and cardiovascular screening blood tests.

CE Credit for E-Prescribing Learning Program

Find [slides](#) of a CMS program on E-prescribing (with CE credit for physicians and pharmacists) at the Massachusetts Medical Society Web site. There are no registration or certificate fees.

ABCs of Providing the Initial Preventive Physical Examination

This [quick reference](#) information is a guide for providing the IPPE that identifies the components and elements of the IPPE and provides eligibility requirements, procedure codes for filing claims, FAQs, and suggestions for preparing patients for the IPPE.

E-Prescribing Incentive Program Update

Eligible professionals can participate in the E-Prescribing Incentive Program by reporting on their adoption and use of an E-prescribing system by submitting information on one E-prescribing measure on their Medicare Part B claims. For the 2009 reporting year, participants must report one E-prescribing measure in at least 50% of the cases in which the measure is reportable. No sign-up or pre-registration is required to participate. You can also download the "2009 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program Made Simple" [fact sheet](#).

Fee Schedule Pricing Files for CY 2009

CMS has condensed all 56 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) carrier-specific pricing files into one [zip file](#). It is labeled as "All States" in the State field and "2009" in the Calendar Year field. Because the list is ordered by State name, "All States" appears after the Alaska files. If you sort by most recent Calendar Year, the file will appear at the top of the list.

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

Detailed information on the 2009 PQRI was published (73 FR 69817 through 69847) in the [Federal Register](#) on November 19, 2008. PQRI frequently asked questions, a fact sheet, and "2009 PQRI Made Simple" are available on the [CMS Web site](#). Also available are the "2009 PQRI Quality Measure Specifications Manual" and "Implementation Guide" under the "Downloads" section. A Spotlight Alert is also available, complete with the newest program information.

CMS 2007 Posts PQRI Reporting Information

A directory of physicians and other health care professionals who reported quality information under the PQRI in 2007 is available on the HHS Web site

for people with Medicare. [This information](#) includes all eligible professionals identified by their National Provider Identifier (NPI) who submitted at least one quality data code on their Medicare claims for services furnished between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007.

Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Information

This resource gives Medicare FFS physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals a quick reference to Medicare's [preventive services](#).

2009 Home Health PPS (HH PPS) PC Pricer

The updated [home health pricer](#) and provider data is available from CMS.

Reporting Responsibilities

CMS has revised the [physician](#), nonphysician [practitioner](#), and [group practice](#) reporting responsibility Fact Sheets

and the physicians, nonphysician practitioner, and other health care supplier brochure. These Fact Sheets list the types of changes that are required to be reported. Reporting changes as soon as possible will help to ensure timely and accurate claims processing.

Understanding the Remittance Advice

A guide for Medicare providers, physicians, suppliers, and billers is designed to help FFS Medicare providers understand the [remittance advice \(RA\)](#), its applicable uses, and how to interpret RA fields and codes communicated by Medicare contractors.

Web-Based Medicare Enrollment Available

Physicians and nonphysician practitioners can enroll or change their Medicare enrollment information online via the Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System ([PECOS](#)). An initial Medicare enrollment application through PECOS can be processed as much as 50% faster than by paper. **MPM**