

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-02-01
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

DATE: July 11, 2013

TO: Medical Directors/Unit Administrators

SUBJECT: Notice of Delay in Start of Payment Year 2014 End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program Preview Period

FROM: Jean Moody-Williams
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This memorandum informs Medicare-certified dialysis facilities that, due to technical issues, the start of the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) preview period for Payment Year (PY) 2014 is now July 29, 2013, which is a delay of two weeks. We will continue to update you if we anticipate additional schedule changes.

As in previous PYs, the preview period will run 30 days, concluding at 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, August 29. During this time, Preview Performance Score Reports will be available to Networks and facilities on the Dialysis Reports website, www.DialysisReports.org. As in previous years, facilities will be able to submit ESRD QIP clarification questions and formal inquiries via this website during this period. Furthermore, CMS anticipates the on-time implementation of payment reductions, which will apply to services rendered throughout 2014 as mandated by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008.

Also, please note that the preview dates for the Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) Reports and the Dialysis Facility Reports (DFRs) are different than the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) preview dates; preview periods begin August 15th for DFC and August 29th for DFRs.

CMS will address the PY 2014 preview period on a national provider call, which is scheduled for August 7, 2013 from 3:00 – 4:00p.m. (EDT). The call will focus on the steps dialysis facilities

need to take to review the data used to evaluate PY 2014 performance. Network and facility personnel may register for the call at <http://www.eventsvc.com/blhtechnologies>.

After this call, participants should know:

- How to access and review their facility's performance score report;
- How CMS calculated a facility's score using quality data;
- What the performance score means to a facility's PY 2014 payment rate;
- When and where to ask questions regarding their performance score report, including how to submit **one** formal inquiry;
- Why it is a duty and responsibility to make ESRD QIP performance data transparent to patients; and
- Where to access help and additional information.

Facility personnel may register for the NPC at <http://www.eventsvc.com/blhtechnologies>.

Please submit any questions about the information in this memorandum to the ESRD QIP inbox at esrdqip@cms.hhs.gov.