

Clearinghouse May Be Stripping Essential PQRI Data

(posted July 31, 2007)

CMS has issued a warning to providers that some clearinghouses are stripping the national provider identifier (NPI) from claim data prior to Medicare submission. Claims that do not contain the NPI data will not be counted toward PQRI participation. Since PQRI data is compiled by the provider number, this could mean that —while you may be doing everything right—according to the claims data received by your Medicare contractor, you may not reach the 80 percent threshold needed to qualify for bonus payments.

Providers who use a clearinghouse to submit claims to Medicare are urged to check with the clearinghouse and confirm that NPI information is not being stripped from claims. If the clearinghouse is stripping NPI information, and indicates that they cannot do otherwise, you may want to consider other billing options, such as submitting paper claims that contain quality measures.

For more information about the NPI go to

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0725.pdf>.