



Conversion Factor Increases July 1st

CMS has released the new conversion factor for physician services of \$35.9335 effective 7/1/15. This is a 0.5% increase. Future 0.5% increases are scheduled for the first day of the calendar years 2016 – 2019.

SCOTUS Upholds PPACA

On June 25th the Supreme Court announced its ruling in the *King v Burwell* case upholding the legality of the health insurance subsidies for those individuals participating in an insurance exchange not established by a state. 34 states use federally-run exchanges and with this ruling the IRS is au-

thorized to issue tax credits or subsidies to participants in these exchanges as well as any state run exchange.

If you have questions, please contact your consultant or you can reach Bryan Burke at bburke@hci-eps.com or 1-800-572-5275.

CMS and ONC Issue Proposed Meaningful Use Rules

In March, CMS issued new proposed rules affecting the EHR incentive program, now commonly referred to as Meaningful Use. The proposed rule would allow any new participants to the EHR incentive program to attest to meaningful use in 2015 using a reporting period of any continuous 90 day period during the calendar year. For 2015 only this reporting period would also apply to any eligible professional but in 2016 all existing participants must use a full calendar year reporting period. Beginning in 2017 all participants, both new and existing, would be required to use a calendar year reporting period.

CMS has determined that a number of the measures from Stages 1 and 2 are either redundant, duplicative or, whose usefulness has topped out and hence are recommended for elimination from the list of objectives for those stages. The result is that for 2015 through 2017 for Stage 2 there would be 9 required objectives with no distinction between core and menu objectives.

In addition to this consolidation in the number of measures, CMS is proposing to make some changes to the thresholds of some of the measures. Specifically, they are proposing to reduce the threshold on the Stage 2 Objective: Patient Electronic Access measure from “5%” to “≥ 1.” Also the threshold for the Stage 2 Objective: Secure Electronic Messaging would be changed from a % based measure to a sim-

ple attestation that the functionality for the objective has been fully enabled. Finally, CMS is suggesting that all of the public health reporting objectives be consolidated into one objective with multiple measure options. Here is the array of proposed objectives and supporting measures:

Objectives	Measures
CPOE	> 60% of med orders >30% of lab orders >30 % rad orders
Electronic Rx	> 50% Rx using EHR
Clinical Decision Support	5 CDS for ≥ 4 CQMs Enable Drug-drug and drug allergy interaction
Patient Electronic Access	> 50% of patients timely online access > 1 patient V, D, or T
Patient Electronic Health Information	Perform Security Risk Analysis
Patient Specific Information	>10 % patients
Medication Reconciliation	> 50% of transitions of care
Summary of Care	> 10 % of transitions
Secure Messaging	Enable secure messaging
Public Health	Immunization Registry Syndromic Surveillance Case Reporting Public Health Registry Clinical Data Registry

The public health and clinical data registry reporting option is modified to allow the eligible professional to demonstrate “active engagement” with a public health agency or clinical data registry which merely entails that the provider is in the process of moving towards a sharing of production data with one of these entities. This active engagement can be demonstrated by the successful achievement of any one of the proposed measures for this objective.

These proposed changes would be applicable to both the Medicare and Medicaid Incentive Programs. There are no proposed changes to the Clinical Quality Measure selection or reporting schemes with the attestation periods of any 90 continuous days for 2015 and a full calendar year for 2016 and beyond.

It is important to remember that these new rules are only proposed. The comment period ended in May but the final rules have not yet been released.

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact your consultant: Will Hunter at whunter@hci-eps.com Dan Tuckwiller at dtuckwiller@hci-eps.com Craig Batchelor at cbatchelor@hci-eps.com Bryan Burke at bburke@hci-eps.com David Dobyns at ddobyns@hci-eps.com Bryson Goss at bgoss@hci-eps.com Dwight Martin at dmartin@hci-eps.com Ron Otwell at rotwell@hci-eps.com Barry Pillow at bpillow@hci-eps.com Barry Brooks at bbrooks@ihmsso.com or call us at 1-800-572-5275



