

## **PRACTICE ALERT**

**PQRS Ends December 31, 2016**

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**October 2016**

The Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), which identifies measures available to improve the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries by clinical social workers and other Medicare providers, will end on December 31, 2016. PQRS 2016 payment reports will be made available in 2018 and a negative payment adjustment will be made at that time for those clinical social workers who did not meet the reporting requirements for PQRS 2016.

The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) is a quality payment program replacing PQRS and is expected to begin in January 2017 for physicians and in January 2019 for clinical social workers. NASW will provide additional information about this program after the final rule for the 2017 physician fee schedule is released in November 2016.

NASW encourages its members to report PQRS 2016 to avoid a penalty in 2018. It is not too late to begin. The following NASW PQRS document may help members get started: *PQRS 2016 Reporting Criteria for Individual Measures Used by Clinical Workers*. It is available for review at:

<http://www.socialworkers.org/practice/PRA-NL-13616.PQRS-PP%20fin%20revised%20PQRS.pdf>

NASW members may also contact CMS Quality Net Help Desk for assistance in reporting PQRS 2016. The contact information is:

Telephone number: 1-866-288-8912

Email address: [Qnetsupport@sdps.org](mailto:Qnetsupport@sdps.org)

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm CST

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