

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: Wondering Why Your PQRS Payment Is Low? Look at Sequestration

CMS has finally released the 2013 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) incentive payments, and if the number is lower than you expected, you can look to the sequestration pay cuts for the answer.

"As required by law, President Obama issued a sequestration order on March 1, 2013," CMS said in a Sept. 26 announcement. "Under these mandatory reductions, PQRS incentive payments made to eligible professionals and group practices have been reduced by two percent. This two percent reduction affected PQRS incentive payments for reporting periods that ended on or after April 1, 2013. All 2013 incentive payments are subject to sequestration."

If you want a more in-depth analysis of your PQRS payment, visit the CMS website at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/AnalysisAndPayment.html.