

# PQRS: Heads Up for 2015

With the end of 2015 in sight, physicians need to know about several key points of this year's PQRS program:

For solo or small group (2-9) Eligible Professionals (EPs), 2015 is the first year that PQRS performance will be used to determine your Value-Based Payment Modifier (VM).

For solo EPs or groups of 2-9 EPs **WHO DO NOT PARTICIPATE** in PQRS or MU in 2015:

**PQRS**  
**-2.0%**  
payment  
adjustment in  
2017



**VM**  
**-2.0%**  
payment  
adjustment in  
2017



**MU**  
**-3.0%**  
payment  
adjustment in  
2017

**-7.0%** total Medicare payment adjustment in 2017

PQRS determines group size by the number of Eligible Professionals (EPs), not the number of physicians. EPs include Physician Assistants, APRNs, audiologists, other practitioners and therapists, in addition to physicians. For example, a practice with 4 MDs, 2 PAs and 4 physical therapists is considered a group of 10 – not a group of 4.

For groups of 10+ EPs **WHO DO NOT PARTICIPATE** in PQRS or MU in 2015:

**PQRS**  
**-2.0%**  
payment  
adjustment in  
2017



**VM**  
**up to -4.0%**  
payment  
adjustment in  
2017



**MU**  
**-3.0%**  
payment  
adjustment in  
2017

**Up to -9.0%** total Medicare payment adjustment in 2017

**It's not too late to avoid the 2017 payment adjustment.**

2015 program year data reporting doesn't begin until late February of 2016. Visit the CSMS Medicare page for reminders, resources, and free on-demand PQRS webinars.