Act Now: Don’t Be Penalized in 2015!
PQRS Registration Closes October 18

Beginning in 2015, Medicare will penalize providers, including pathologists, who fail to participate in the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS).

But there is still time to act! The PQRS registration deadline closes on Friday, October 18. To avoid the penalty, you can take the following steps:

- **For members who provide services covered by existing PQRS measures** (e.g. breast cancer reporting, colon cancer reporting, prostatectomy reporting, Barrett’s esophagus, and HER2), and who are not yet participating in PQRS, you must report on at least one measure one time before the end of 2013 in order to avoid a -1.5% penalty on Medicare Part B payments in 2015.

- **For members reporting to PQRS as a group**, you must register for the Group Practice Reporting Option on the CMS website by October 18, 2013.

- **For members without measures or who do not report at least one measure**, sign up for the Administrative Claims option through the CMS website by October 18, 2013 to avoid the 2015 penalty. Instructions are available on the CMS website at http://tinyurl.com/lx2acnk.

- **For members employed by an independent laboratory** that bills using Place of Service (POS) 81, you cannot participate in the PQRS and will not be subject to the penalty in 2015.

To register for either the Administrative Claims Option or for the Group Practice Reporting Option, you will need:

1. **Provider ID Number**
2. **Group Taxpayer Identification Number**
3. **Medicare IACS Account** For more information, about obtaining an IACS account, visit https://applications.cms.hhs.gov. Additional information regarding registration and obtaining or modifying an IACS account is available at the Self Nomination/Registration web page.

The PQRS registration system, which will close on October 18, can be accessed at https://portal.cms.gov. Users should call the PV-PQRS Help Desk at 1-888-734-6433 and select option 3 for questions about registration. You can also contact CMS’ QualityNet help desk at 1-866-288-8912.

For additional information about the PQRS, visit the CAP PQRS Resource Center on the Advocacy page of the CAP website at www.cap.org.