

## 1.5% Payment Bonus Available on 2008 Medicare Claims

Reporting for the 2008 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) started on January 1, 2008 and will continue through all of 2008. This means that you may be able to earn twice as much bonus in 2008 as you received in 2007.

Surgeons should select three measures that pertain to the services they provide. Similar to last year's PQRI initiative, physicians must report on 80% of their cases for which the measure is reportable. If you have not already started reporting, do so now, in order to have the best chance of meeting the 80% reporting threshold. Whether you report CPT2 codes (the numerator) or not, CMS already has started counting eligible cases (the denominator) beginning January 1, 2008.

For PQRI 2008, the STS tried to add new quality measures specific for cardiothoracic surgery. However, CMS officials said regulatory procedural delays prevented them from implementing new measures as anticipated. Therefore, STS recommends that cardiothoracic surgeons continue to report on the same measures used last year.

Measure #	Title	CPT2 Code
<b>Adult Cardiac Surgeons</b>		
43	Use of IMA in Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery	4110F
44	Pre-operative Beta-blocker in Patients with Isolated CABG	4115F
45	Perioperative Care: Discontinuation of Prophylactic Antibiotics (Cardiac Procedures)	4043F and 4046F
<b>General Thoracic Surgeons</b>		
20	Perioperative Care: Timing of Antibiotic Prophylaxis – Ordering Physician	4047F
21	Perioperative Care: Selection of Prophylactic Antibiotic – First or Second Generation Cephalosporin	4041F
22	Perioperative Care: Discontinuation of Prophylactic Antibiotics (Non-Cardiac Procedures)	4049F and 4046F
<b>Code Modifiers</b>		
Exclusion modifier	Documentation of medical reason for not performing the measure	1-P
Exclusion modifier	Documentation of patient reason for not performing the measure	2-P
Reporting modifier	Documentation that a measure was not performed, reason unknown	8-P

The measure specifications, including qualifying CPT1 codes, their matching CPT2 codes and allowable modifiers can be found on the CMS website at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/15\\_MeasuresCodes.asp#topofpage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/15_MeasuresCodes.asp#topofpage).

If you have additional questions, please email or call Ellen Clough at [eclough@sts.org](mailto:eclough@sts.org) or 312-202-5832.