

A testimonial from Mark Rosenberg, Executive Director of Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center explaining the benefits of taking advantage of PQRI:

Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center initially decided against the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). The feedback we had received from many practices was that the expense and workload wouldn't be worth the cost and effort. It wasn't until I attended a professional meeting that we realized that the effort just might be worthwhile. We started the experience with a lot of trepidation as we didn't start until late February 2008. We were, as they say, behind the power curve. We contacted a few experts in the field as well as our Practice Management System NextGen and we quickly realized that the effort was very minimal. The NextGen System allows us to modify the fee tickets ourselves so the few PQRI codes were added to our existing fee tickets immediately. From that point we had a "Cheat Sheet" emailed out to the staff and the doctors and we were live. We did start with only a few of our doctors initially but realized that it was very easy to implement so we fast tracked the implementation.

Most of our doctors decided that it was much easier to circle the PQRI codes for all patients rather than just the Medicare patients. That actually made the process easier if we found out after the fact that the insurance was not entered correctly in the beginning. When the Data Entry staff entered the other CPT codes they entered these as well so the additional work effort was minimal. We were able to set up claims edits in our Practice Management System NextGen to alert the Data Entry Staff if any PQRI's were missing. NextGen also allows us to run reports showing our Doctor's PQRI compliance.

I am happy to note that we have just starting receiving our PQRI checks from CMS and the amount we have received so far is substantial enough to cover an FTE. We expect even more payments in the near future. Our practice revenue increased \$2 million dollars and even with the addition of PQRI we have been able to decrease our Central Billing Office staff members by 4 FTE's.