

CROWN Memorandum



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TO: ESRD Executive Directors, ESRD Data Managers, Regional Project Officers

FROM: James Poyer
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Center for Clinical Standards and Quality
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

DATE: December 30, 2014

SUBJECT: Revision to Performance Standards for the Standardized Readmissions Ratio Clinical Measure in the Payment Year 2017 End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP)

The purpose of this memo is to inform Network directors that CMS has recently determined that a data irregularity led to the publication of erroneous performance standards for the Standardized Readmissions Ratio (SRR) clinical measure in the Payment Year (PY) 2017 ESRD QIP. Finalized policy (79 FR 66182) established that the PY 2017 performance standards would be based on the 90th, 15th, and 50th percentile of national performance in CY 2013.

The following **erroneous** performance standards were published in the CY 2015 ESRD PPS Final Rule where requirements for PY 2017 – PY 2018 (79 FR 66184) were finalized:

Benchmark (90th percentile)	0.555
Achievement Threshold (15th percentile)	1.325
Performance Standard (50th percentile)	0.996

After resolving the data irregularity, CMS has determined that the following values accurately reflect the “90th, 15th, and 50th percentiles, respectively, of national performance in CY 2013” (79 FR 66182), and that these updated values should replace the abovementioned values for setting performance standards for the PY 2017 ESRD QIP. CMS will score facility performance on the SRR clinical measure on the basis of the following **accurate** standards for the PY 2017 ESRD QIP:

Benchmark (90th percentile)	0.648
Achievement Threshold (15th percentile)	1.261
Performance Standard (50th percentile)	0.998

This memorandum serves as an advance notice of these corrected standards. CMS will publish a Technical Correction in the *Federal Register* in the near future, which will officially correct the erroneous values published in the ESRD PPS CY 2015 Final Rule.

Actions Required by the Networks

Notify each dialysis facility that they will be scored on the corrected performance standards displayed in this memorandum instead of the erroneous standards published in the CY 2015 ESRD PPS Final Rule. If facilities have any questions about this issue, please direct them to the ESRD QIP mailbox at ESRDQIP@cms.hhs.gov.

If Networks have any questions about the information in this memo, please contact Tamyra Garcia at tamyra.garcia@cms.hhs.gov or at 410-786-0856.