



# PHARMACY QUALITY SOLUTIONS

Newsletter | Volume 4, Issue 1

## **EQuIPP**<sup>™</sup> Electronic Quality Improvement Platform for Plans & Pharmacies

March 22, 2017

Happy Spring to all, and my how the time flies by! As we did last January, this newsletter will discuss changes and updates that have occurred to the EQuIPP dashboard over the past several months, provide some information on the 2018 CMS Draft Call Letter, as well as an update from the Quality Corner.

Soon we will be out and about at various meetings and conferences where we hope to meet our many users and partners!!

### Quality Corner

Happy New Year! We're hoping that the first quarter of 2017 has been a positive one.

With the initiation of some quality-based performance programs and the continuation of others in 2017, now is a great time focus ways to improve the quality of care provided, whether you are a community pharmacist or work in the managed care industry. As previously mentioned, we have found that the pharmacies with the best proportion of days covered (PDC) rates are typically those who actively engage their chronically-ill patients at every visit to the pharmacy, not just when they are negatively impacting their scores. We encourage all pharmacists to talk to every one of your Medicare diabetic patients this month to make sure that you have uncovered any concerns your patients may have related to obtaining and using their medications. Enrolling your patients in medication synchronization programs, such as the appointment-based model, can also be a great way to proactively manage the refills for your patients on multiple medications.

We'll continue to provide you the best performance data possible from the increasing number of health plan participants in EQuIPP. Look for expanded information to come your way later this year as we launch new dashboards with more robust information. With the rapid growth in performance-based payment programs for pharmacies, it's more important than ever to be PROACTIVE in your efforts to optimize your quality scores and payment.

### New EQuIPP Partners

Throughout the fourth quarter of 2016 and early in 2017, we introduced new patient populations from CVS/caremark and Prime Therapeutics. These new patient populations will now show up as part of the EQuIPP-managed population.

On the pharmacy side, we would like to welcome the addition of Publix Super Markets, along with the addition of Grocers Provider Network and Arete Pharmacy Network, in EQuIPP.



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### Quick Links

[Full PDF Version](#)

[EQuIPP Website](#)

[PQS Website](#)

[PQA Measures](#)

### Pharmacy Meetings

Our team will be at the following events in the coming months...

**APhA Annual Meeting**  
March 24-27  
San Francisco, CA

**NASPA Spring Meeting**  
March 24-26, San Francisco, CA

**APCI Annual Meeting**  
Mar 25 San Antonio, TX

**AMCP Annual Meeting**  
March 27-30 Denver, CO

**EPIC Annual Meeting**  
April 21-23, Orlando, FL

**NACDS**  
April 22-25 Scottsdale, AZ

**NPSC Expo**  
April 25-27 Mystic, CT

**NCPDP**  
May 8-10 Phoenix, AZ

**PQA Annual Meeting**  
May 17-19 Baltimore, MD

### Spotlight

We plan to continue to expand our partnerships on both the managed care and pharmacy sides throughout the summer of 2017, announcing the introduction of even more patient populations in EQuIPP. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

## EQuIPP at a Glance: Changes to the Dashboard

### Year-to-Date Performance Data

With the year-to-date performance assessment for the 2016 calendar year complete, we will not be hosting any new year-to-date performance data until the May 2017 EQuIPP refresh. The historical data will continue to be displayed for your future review. Communication will be sent out when this resumes in May 2017. More details to come when this is available.

### NEW - Patient Specific Adherence Scores!

#### Patient Outliers for Cholesterol PDC

[Download this Report](#)

Performance Data Date Range:

APR 2016 - SEP 2016

Show:

Patient								
Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Designations	Provided By	Type	PDC Rate	Status	Action
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	XX/XX/XXXX	HEALTH PLAN	Outlier	58.43%	Not Started		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	XX/XX/XXXX	HEALTH PLAN	Outlier	75.43%	Not Started		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	XX/XX/XXXX	HEALTH PLAN	Outlier	78.48%	Not Started		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	XX/XX/XXXX	HEALTH PLAN	Outlier	55.81%	Not Started		

We are now displaying patient-specific PDC scores for EQuIPP calculated pharmacy patient outliers. We will now show pharmacies the adherence score for patients that are less than 80% adherent and allow the pharmacy to sort and filter based on those scores in an effort to help pharmacies prioritize workflow and patient impact. If you have other designations that you would like to display for members to help provide pharmacies with more actionable information, please let us know!

### New EQuIPP Resource for Pharmacies: Patient Safety-Patient Letter Use of High Risk Medications is now hosted on the website!

The Patient Safety page from EQuIPP resources now includes a new letter which may help patients to facilitate discussion with prescribers about the use of High Risk Medications.

### PQS Website Fresh Look!

Check out our updated website at [www.pharmacyquality.com](http://www.pharmacyquality.com). Here you will find updated information on what is happening with PQS and EQuIPP, links to our Newsletters and much more!

### Outlier Information Expanded in FAQ section

Detailed information regarding patient outliers have been updated in the FAQ section. These include frequently asked questions as well as everything you need to know to effectively utilize the provided patient outliers. These links are also provided below:

[EQuIPP Outliers: Everything You Need to Know](#)

[EQuIPP Outliers FAQs](#)

## Hot Topic: CMS Draft Call Letter

Every year we like to provide our clients with a summary of the CMS Call letter. Please [click here](#) to check out the 2018 Draft Call Letter Summary as provided by PQS.

Amy Scott, RPh, Pharmacy Quality Consultant, will present: "Pharmacy Quality Measures Medicare Star Ratings: 2017 Update-What They Are and How They Affect Pharmacy" on Saturday, March 25th at the APCI Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Zac Renfro, PharmD, Pharmacy Quality Consultant, will present: "Pharmacy Quality Measures-Medicare Star Ratings: 2017 Update" Wednesday, April 25th at the Northeast Pharmacy Services Cooperative Expo in Mystic, CT.

*At Pharmacy Quality Solutions we believe that meaningful improvement is obtained in the presence of relentless measurement and that good measurement is simple, timely, and reliable.*

## Meet Our Team

PQS recently welcomed Marisa Randall, Operations Analyst, to the PQS Team. Prior to joining PQS, Marisa worked as a Financial and Planning Analyst in the telecommunications industry. She has also held various positions within the finance and banking industry.

Marisa's prior experience lies in corporate analysis, risk assessment, and business development. She is also well versed in data management. In 2015 Marisa received a B.S. in Management Information Systems from the University of Pittsburgh. She intends to pursue a Master's Degree in the future.

## Join Our Mailing List

### Stay Connected



### PQS/EQuIPP is Connected!

Over the past several months, the number of Medicare plans and other health plans that participate in EQuIPP have expanded. We anticipate this to continue in the coming months. Also, there are now more than 95% of all community pharmacies across the US are now subscribers to EQuIPP.

## Frequently Asked Question

**Q:** How does including data for two different benefit years (2016 and 2017) impact my performance scores in EQuIPP?

**A:** For the next couple of months you will notice changes in your EQuIPP patient population as some members disenroll from health plans hosted in EQuIPP, new members enroll in hosted health plans and begin to build a claims history that will count towards your pharmacy organization's performance. Typically, you will notice a decrease in the PDC (adherence) measures for the next three months and an increase in the High Risk Medication Use and Statin Use in Diabetes measures. In June, you will start to see the patient populations settle back towards a new normal level - depending on the enrollment changes in your service area. Utilize the print screen feature on the outlier page prior to the removal of those specific outliers. Keep in mind that January data will not be displayed as part of the data date range until mid-March 2016.

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EQuIPP now covers over 59% of the Medicare lives nationwide, and represents upwards of 90% of covered Medicare lives in several states. The dataset now includes over 28 million lives across all lines of business.

Have trouble logging into EQuIPP? Need a password reset? Please use the Support button in the top right hand corner of any page on the EQuIPP site for technical assistance and support. This is your fastest channel to get technical support.

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