



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

DATE: February 11, 2014

TO: Medical Directors/Unit Administrators

SUBJECT: Clarification Regarding CROWNWeb Attestations for Payment Year 2015 End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program Reporting Measures

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This memorandum is to inform Medicare-certified dialysis facilities that, due to potentially unclear guidance and conflicting direction provided by different information sources, some facilities may not have properly completed their Payment Year (PY) 2015 reporting measure attestations on the CROWNWeb system.

CMS has learned that facilities received direction during January 2014 to attest “N/A” (for not applicable) in CROWNWeb for the Mineral Metabolism, Anemia Management, and/or NHSN Dialysis Event reporting measures in the event that the facility met **any** of the exclusions listed in the technical specifications for the measure in question. This guidance is incorrect, and may have led facilities to select improper attestations on the system, which has the potential to adversely impact the accuracy of their scores and/or create inconsistencies in the facility’s records.

The “N/A” attestation is properly used **only** when the facility does not meet the 11-case minimum for the reporting measure in question.

In order to resolve this issue, facilities are encouraged to avail themselves of the processes available during the PY 2015 Preview Period this summer. Facilities should include their concerns about reporting-measure attestations as part of their formal inquiry to CMS, if applicable, and to request a correction that will ensure that their final scores will be accurate. Please note that, similar to previous years, a facility is permitted to file only a single formal

inquiry during the Preview Period, so please do not submit a formal inquiry addressing this issue alone, unless it is the sole reason for the inquiry.

Following the conclusion of the Preview Period, facility scores will be finalized and payment reductions will be implemented where appropriate. Payment reductions will apply to services rendered throughout 2015, as mandated by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008.

Please submit any questions about the information in this memorandum to the ESRD QIP inbox at esrdqip@cms.hhs.gov.