

# CareFirst Quality Rewards



CareFirst Quality Rewards (CQR) is a new pay-for-quality program that will reward physicians for delivering effective and affordable health care. Physicians in the following specialties are invited to participate in this voluntary program: pediatrics, family practice, internal medicine, and internal medicine subspecialties. Physicians must be active in GHMSI (Select Preferred Provider (SPP) and Participating) and CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. (CareFirst BlueChoice) networks to participate. Other specialties will be invited in coming years.

CQR includes effectiveness measures in the areas of quality and service-oriented business practices. Although both individual- and group-level measures are included, CQR will be administered on an individual level. Some measures are based on CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst) and CareFirst BlueChoice administrative data; however physicians can earn points from a menu of programs offered by leading national, clinical organizations such as specialty boards, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Joint Commission, and CMS.

Physicians submit their external program achievements to CareFirst and CareFirst BlueChoice, or authorize external organizations to do so on their behalf.

CQR is the first pay-for-quality program in the nation to be endorsed by Bridges to Excellence, a not-for-profit organization that recognizes and rewards health care providers who have implemented comprehensive solutions in the management of patients and deliver safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered care.

In addition to effectiveness measures, CQR has a dimension of affordability, which is based on NCQA's prescribed methodology for assessing efficient use of medical practices. By attaining scores high enough in effectiveness and affordability, a practitioner can achieve a reimbursement level up to 107% of the base fee schedules applicable to all claims in all CareFirst Regional networks. Reference the [CQR Program Measure Table](#) to see the menu of options for earning points, and the reimbursement levels that correspond to different achievement levels.

For more information about the CQR program, please contact your provider service representative.

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