

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **USWR Sets the Pace for Providers to Thrive Under CMS' Quality Payment Programs** *USWR Approved by CMS as MIPS 2017 QCDR*

**The Woodlands, TX—June 6, 2017:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has approved the U.S. Wound Registry (USWR) to participate in the Merit Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for 2017 as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR). QCDRs submit quality data on behalf of physicians whose Medicare Part payments are subject to MIPS.

The goal of Medicare's new Quality Payment Program is to link physician payment to patient outcomes and the quality of care provided. Because not all medical specialties are represented by the quality measures available so far, QCDRs are able to develop quality measures relevant to a particular specialty or condition. The USWR developed a suite of 15 quality measures, recognized by CMS for use in 2017, which allow wound care practitioners to demonstrate their commitment to providing high quality care and demonstrating they have superior patient outcomes.

Physicians can report these measures for credit under the quality reporting category of MIPS. Hospitals are using these measures to benchmark wound care and hyperbaric medicine services, and payers are using these metrics to identify top performing providers and institutions. Data indicate that practitioners reporting the USWR quality measures are more likely to appropriately treat conditions like diabetic foot ulcers and venous leg ulcers than practitioners who do not report quality measures.

Dr. Caroline Fife, Executive Director of the USWR said, "This is a proud day for us. The USWR calls its quality program, 'Do the Right Thing.' Lots of people talk about quality of patient care. Doctors reporting our measures can prove that they actually provide it."

To see the measures and read more, go to [www.USWoundRegistry.com/QualityMeasures](http://www.USWoundRegistry.com/QualityMeasures)

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The U.S. Wound Registry (USWR) is the primary data repository and reporting entity developed by the Chronic Disease Family of Registries. At last count, nearly half of all Americans have one or more chronic illnesses. For those age 65 or older, that number jumps to 85%. People with chronic conditions cost the health care system \$1.5 trillion, or roughly 75% of total health care expenditures.

Established in 2005 in response to the ongoing need for clinicians to aggregate data about their patients to support public policy, the USWR now operates nine (9) registries serving underrepresented patient populations which include the U.S. Podiatry Registry, the U.S. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Registry, the Diabetic Foot Ulcer Registry, and the Venous Leg Ulcer Registry, to name a few.

For more information about the USWR please visit their website: [wwwUSWoundRegistry.com](http://wwwUSWoundRegistry.com)