



Medicare & Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Stimulus

Medicare EHR Incentive Program

Eligible professionals can earn up to \$44,000 over five years under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, hospitals and critical access hospitals as they *adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use* of certified EHR technology. For purposes of the Medicare and Medicaid Incentive Programs, eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals must use certified EHR technology. Eligible professionals who have previously purchased an EHR system will still be eligible for the incentive as long as their system is on the list of certified EHR technology.

To get the maximum EHR incentive payment, Medicare eligible professionals must begin participation by 2012.

Medicare EHR Incentive Payment Schedule for Eligible Professionals.

| Payment Amounts | Year Qualified to Receive Payment | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| 2011 | \$18,000 | | | | |
| 2012 | \$12,000 | \$18,000 | | | |
| 2013 | \$8,000 | \$12,000 | \$15,000 | | |
| 2014 | \$4,000 | \$8,000 | \$12,000 | \$12,000 | |
| 2015 | \$2,000 | \$4,000 | \$8,000 | \$8,000 | |
| 2016 | | \$2,000 | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | |
| Total Payment Amount | \$44,000 | \$44,000 | \$39,000 | \$24,000 | |

Who is eligible for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program?

- Doctors of medicine or osteopathy
- Doctor of dental surgery or dental medicine
- Doctor of podiatry
- Doctor of optometry
- Chiropractor

Eligible professionals have no minimum Medicare patient volume that must be met.

What do you need to do to start your path to payment?

1. Make sure you are an eligible professional.
2. Find a program which is certified and fits your needs.
3. Register as soon as possible. You can register before having a system installed.

Once you have completed the aforementioned steps, you then must successfully demonstrate “meaningful use” for a consecutive 90-day period in your first year of participation (and for a full year in each subsequent years) to receive EHR incentive payments. Once you have demonstrated “meaningful use” for a consecutive 90-day period you then must attest (legally state) through Medicare’s secure Website that you have demonstrated “meaningful use” with certified EHR technology. Starting in April 2011, you can submit your attestation.

What is “meaningful use”?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 specifies three main components of “meaningful use”.

1. The use of a certified EHR in a meaningful manner, such as e-prescribing.
2. The use of certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of health care.
3. The use of certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures.

Simply put “meaningful use” means providers need to show they are using certified EHR technology in ways that can be measured significantly in quality and in quantity.

What are the Criteria for Meaningful Use?

The criteria for meaningful use will be staged in three steps over the course of the next five years.

- Stage 1 (2011 and 2012) sets the baseline for electronic data capture and information sharing.
- Stage 2 (expected to be implemented in 2013) and Stage 3 (expected to be implemented in 2015) will continue to expand on this baseline and be developed through future rule making. At this point, the requirements for stages 2 and 3 have not been released.

What are the requirements for Stage 1 of Meaningful Use (2011 and 2012)?

Meaningful use includes both a core set and a menu set of objectives that are specific to eligible professionals. For eligible professionals there are a total of 25 meaningful use objectives. To qualify for an incentive payment, 20 of these 25 objectives must be met.

- There are 15 required core objectives.
- The remaining 5 objectives may be chosen from the list of 10 menu set objectives.

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Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will provide incentive payment to eligible professionals as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology in their first year of participation and demonstrate meaningful use for up to five remaining participation years. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program is voluntarily offered by individual states and territories and may begin as early as 2011, depending on the state.

Who is eligible for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program?

- Physicians (primarily doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy)
- Nurse practitioner
- Certified nurse-midwife
- Dentist
- Physician assistant who furnishes services in a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic that is led by a physician assistant

Eligible professionals receive up to \$63,750 over the six years that they choose to participate in the program. Under the Medicaid Incentive Program there are no payment adjustments. However, **one** of the following must be met to be eligible:

- Have a minimum of 30% Medicaid patient volume
- Have a minimum of 20% Medicaid patient volume and is a pediatrician
- Practice predominantly in a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Center and have a minimum 30% patient volume attributable to needy individuals

Additionally, the eligible professional or their employer must have spent at least \$3,750 on certified EHR technology that costs at least \$25,000 in total to acquire and implement.

Eligible professionals cannot participate in both the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive programs.

Important Dates

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| January 1, 2011: | Reporting year begins for eligible professionals |
| January 3, 2011: | Registration for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program begins |
| April 2011: | Attestation for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program begins |
| May 2011: | EHR Incentive Payments expected to begin |
| October 1, 2011: | Last day for eligible professionals to begin their 90-day reporting period for calendar year 2011 for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program |
| December 31, 2011: | Reporting year ends for eligible professionals |
| February 29, 2012: | Last day for eligible professionals to register and attest to receive an incentive payment for calendar year 2011 |

Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Schedule for Eligible Professionals.

| Payment Amounts | Year Qualified to Receive Payment | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| 2011 | \$21,250 | | | | | |
| 2012 | \$8,500 | \$21,250 | | | | |
| 2013 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$21,250 | | | |
| 2014 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$21,250 | | |
| 2015 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$21,250 | |
| 2016 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$21,250 |
| 2017 | | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 |
| 2018 | | | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 |
| 2019 | | | | \$8,500 | \$8,500 | \$8,500 |
| 2020 | | | | | \$8,500 | \$8,500 |
| 2021 | | | | | | \$8,500 |
| Total Payment Amount | \$63,750 | \$63,750 | \$63,750 | \$63,750 | \$63,750 | \$63,750 |

Useful Websites

You can find a list of certified EHR technology at <http://onc-chpl.force.com/ehrcert> or ask your vendor for their ONC number. Certified EHR technology offers necessary technology, functionality and security to help you meet meaningful use criteria.

For more information on the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive programs, visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/ or contact the regional office at (312) 353-1504.

How can Yeo & Yeo help?

- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis to help evaluate the immediate and long-term benefits and costs of adopting an EHR system.
- Ensure the EHR documentation meets the specific requirements for E&M services reporting by the CPT guidelines.
- Conduct an internal assessment to determine your practice's requirements in an EHR system.
- Evaluate potential EHR systems to help ensure your purchase is a "right-fit" for your practice.
- Consult on your technology infrastructure including hardware, software, networking, IT security and data backup.
- Assist with other questions and concerns you may have.

**For more information, call Julia M. Lowe, CPC,
President, Affiliated Medical Billing, LLC,
at (866) 493-9830 or your local Yeo & Yeo office.**