

Rhode Island Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

In 2011, the Medicaid EHR incentive program will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals and eligible hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology in their first year of participation. Medicaid EHR incentive programs are voluntarily offered by individual states and territories and may begin in 2011. Eligible professionals can receive up to \$63,750 over the 6 years that they choose to participate in the program.

Eligible hospital incentive payments may begin as early as 2011, depending when the state begins its program. 2016 is the last year a Medicaid eligible hospital may begin the program and the hospital payments are based on a number of factors, beginning with a \$2 million base payment.

Qualifying for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

Eligible Providers

A Medicaid Eligible Provider is defined as a physician, nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, dentist, or physician assistant who furnish services in a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic that is so led by a physician assistant. To qualify for an EHR incentive payment, a Medicaid EP must not be hospital-based and must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a minimum 30% Medicaid patient volume
- Have a minimum 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

NOTE: A Medicaid EP is considered hospital-based if 90% or more of the EP's services are performed in a hospital inpatient or emergency room setting.

Hospitals

Acute care hospitals (including Critical Access Hospitals) with at least 10% Medicaid patient volume, as well as children's hospitals, where Medicaid patient volume is not required, may be eligible for Medicaid EHR incentive payments.

NOTE: Some hospitals (e.g. Medicaid acute care hospitals that are also Medicare subsection (d) hospitals) may receive incentive payments from both Medicare and Medicaid if it meets all eligibility criteria.

Understanding Meaningful Use Requirements

The requirements of meaningful use to qualify for incentive payments was released on July 13, 2010. The final rule definitively outlines all the specifics of Stage 1 meaningful use and clinical quality measure reporting to receive the incentive payments in 2011 and 2012.

The Recovery Act specifies three main components of Meaningful Use:

- The use of a certified EHR in a meaningful manner (e.g.: e-Prescribing);
- The use of certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of health care; and

- The use of certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures.

The definition of meaningful use harmonizes criteria across CMS programs as much as possible and coordinates with existing CMS quality initiatives. It also closely links to the certification standards criteria in development by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) and provides a platform for a staged implementation over time.

For More Details Visit the CMS EHR Incentive Website

Pursuing the EHR Incentive program will involve planning for your organization. Therefore we recommend that you and your staff take the time to read and understand the information on the CMS EHR Incentive Program website:

http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage

The shortcuts on the left of the screen will provide you information on Getting Started, Eligibility, Certification, Meaningful Use, Registration, Medicare and Medicaid Eligible Professional, Hospitals, Medicare Advantage, Information for States and Frequently Asked Questions.

If you still have questions regarding the Rhode Island EHR Incentive Program, send an email to EHRIncentive@dhs.ri.gov and we'll be sure to reply to your questions promptly.

NOTE: This information and the information on the CMS links are subject to change. Be sure to continue to visit this site for any new updates.