

EHR Incentives Explained

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, was signed into law on February 17, 2009, to promote the adoption and meaningful use of health information technology.

In order for medical/dental practices to obtain the incentives offered by Medicare/Medicaid they must follow strict procedure as laid out in this document. This document will lead you through how to check for your practice's eligibility to participate in the program and what steps you will need to take to in order to take advantage of the incentives.

All information contained in this document had been obtained from www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms and has been formatted into a format conducive to facilitate your practice through the registration and verification process.

If your practice processes claims through Medicare/Medicaid it behooves you to take action towards EHR/EMR (Electronic Health Records/Electronic Medical Records) sooner than later. If your practice has already implemented an EHR system you may already be ahead of the game. To receive the maximum EHR payment Medicare eligible Professionals must begin participation in 2012. Medicare eligible professionals who do not successfully demonstrate meaningful use will have a payment adjustment to their Medicare reimbursement. The payment reduction starts at 1% and increases each year that a Medicare eligible professional does not demonstrate meaningful use, to a maximum of 5%.

It is important for you practice to evaluate which path to take to obtain the incentives, because you can only participate in the Medicare or the Medicaid program to receive incentives. Medicare eligible professionals who also qualify as a Medicaid eligible professional must choose between the Medicare and Medicaid incentive programs when they register. Not sure which program to register for? Find more information in the [EHR Incentive Programs Overview page](#).

Medicaid eligible professionals and providers who are not eligible to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will not be subject to payment adjustments. However, Medicaid eligible professionals who also treat Medicare patients will have a payment adjustment to Medicare reimbursements starting in 2015 if they do not successfully demonstrate meaningful use.

Medicaid eligible professionals and providers who are not eligible to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will not be subject to payment adjustments. However, Medicaid eligible professionals who also treat Medicare patients will have a payment adjustment to Medicare reimbursements starting in 2015 if they do not successfully demonstrate meaningful use.

Registration Steps for E.H.R. Incentive Stimulus Program

Visit www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms

- Create and verify your practice has an NPI(National Provider Identifier)
- CMS Provider Enrollment
- Chain & Ownership System (PECOS)
- Active User Account in (NPPES)
- Check your eligibility
 - Healthcare professionals and hospitals must meet the eligibility criteria defined by law to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.

[Eligibility Requirements for Professionals](#) under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program include:

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

[Eligibility Requirements for Professionals](#) under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program include:

- 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.
 - [Participating in the EHR Incentive Program and Other Current CMS Incentive Programs](#)
 - [Downloads and Related Links](#)

[Register for the Medicare and/or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs](#)

- Below are step-by-step guides to help you register for EHR Incentive Programs. Choose the guide that fits your needs:
 - [Registration User Guide for Eligible Professionals](#) – Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program.
 - [Registration User Guide for Eligible Professionals](#) – Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program.
 - [Registration User Guide for Eligible Hospitals](#) – Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program.

- [Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Webinar for Eligible Professionals](#) - This tutorial video will provide Eligible Professionals with a step-by-step guide to help ensure the registration process is a success.
- Meaningful Use requirements for Software
 - [Stage 1 EHR Meaningful Use Specification Sheets for Eligible Professionals \[PDF, 337KB\]](#)
 - [ALL Stage 1 EHR Meaningful Use Specification Sheets for Eligible Professionals \[ZIP, 2MB\]](#)
 - [Stage 1 EHR Meaningful Use Specification Sheets for Eligible Hospitals \[PDF, 372KB\]](#)
 - [ALL Stage 1 EHR Meaningful Use Specification Sheets for Eligible Hospitals \[ZIP, 2.2MB\]](#)
 - [EHR Incentive Program MU Stage1 Requirements Summary \[PDF, 398KB\]](#)
 - [EHR Incentive Program MU Stage1 Requirements Overview \[PDF, 380KB\]](#)

Payment Amounts	If a Medicare Eligible Professional Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2011	If a Medicare Eligible Professional Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2012	If a Medicare Eligible Professional Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2013	If a Medicare Eligible Professional Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2014	If a Medicare Eligible Professional Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2015
Payment	\$18,000				
Amount for 2011 Will Be					
Payment Amount for 2012 Will Be	\$12,000	\$18,000			
Payment Amount for 2013 Will Be	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$15,000		
Payment Amount for 2014 Will Be	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	
Payment Amount for 2015 Will Be	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	
Payment Amount for 2016 Will Be		\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	
Total Payment Amount Will Be	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$39,000	\$24,000	

http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/35_Basics.asp

Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Schedule for Eligible Professionals

	Medicaid EP Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2011	Medicaid EP Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2012	Medicaid EP Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2013	Medicaid EP Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2014	Medicaid EP Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2015	Medicaid EP Qualifies to Receive First Payment in 2016
Payment Amount in 2011	\$21,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Payment Amount in 2012	\$8,500.00	\$21,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Payment Amount in 2013	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$21,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Payment Amount in 2014	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$21,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Payment Amount in 2015	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$21,250.00	\$0.00
Payment Amount in 2016	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$21,250.00
Payment Amount in 2017	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Payment Amount in 2018	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Payment Amount in 2019	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Payment Amount in 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Payment Amount in 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00
TOTAL Incentive Payments	\$63,750.00	\$63,750.00	\$63,750.00	\$63,750.00	\$63,750.00	\$63,750.00

http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/35_Basics.asp