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Update on Medicare and Medicaid Payment Issues

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April 14, 2011

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Attestation System for Medicare EHR Incentive Program Opens on April 18, 2011

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Under Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, eligible professionals, hospitals and critical access hospitals that demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology will receive incentive payments from Medicare. The Medicare EHR Incentive Program begins April 18, 2011. Providers must attest to meaningful use through the CMS Web-based Medicare and Medicaid EHR Programs Registration and Attestation System to receive Medicare EHR incentive payments. Providers can [preview snapshots \[PDF\]](#) of the system to see what the attestation process is expected to involve. These snapshots are examples of the system, and CMS may make changes to the final system.

After the initial year, payments may lag due to a need to report data for each year and to process payments. November 30, 2011 is the last day for eligible hospitals and critical access hospital to register and attest, in order to receive an incentive payment for fiscal year 2011, while February 29, 2012 is the last date for eligible professionals. For other important dates in the EHR Incentive Program please see CMS's [EHR Incentive Program Time Line \[PDF\]](#).

Providers may also review the states' [scheduled launch dates \[PDF\]](#) of their Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. At this time, not all states have scheduled launched dates so check this page to determine when your state's program will launch.

For additional information on the Medicare EHR Incentive Program Stage 2 and Stage 3 meaningful use requirements see [HIT Policy Committee Releases Proposed Stage 2 \(and Stage 3\) Meaningful Use Requirements - Requests Public Comment](#).

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CMS encourages hospitals and critical access hospitals to participate early in the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs. Eligible professionals must participate in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program in 2012 to receive the maximum incentive payments. In 2015, eligible professionals, hospitals and critical access hospitals that do not demonstrate meaningful use will receive less reimbursement from Medicare. CMS proposes additional incentives under the proposed ACO Shared Savings regulations, requiring ACOs to have certified EHRs that enable the collection and evaluation of data by the ACO as well as the reporting of quality data to the CMS to receive shared savings. For information about the privacy and EHR under the proposed ACO regulations see [ACO Update: Increased Exchange of PHI for ACO Participants; Beneficiaries Retain HIPAA Privacy Rights](#).