

Ober|Kaler Healthcare Information Privacy, Security and Technology Bulletin



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Eligible Professionals Must Begin 90 Day Meaningful Use Reporting Period by October 3, 2011 to Receive Medicare Incentive Payments for 2011

Another deadline is fast approaching for eligible professionals planning to receive Medicare "Meaningful Use" incentive program payments for 2011. To complete the requisite 90 day reporting period and attest in time to receive payment for 2011, eligible professionals must begin their reporting period by October 3, 2011. For Eligible Providers who have already invested the time and effort to install certified EHR technology and otherwise qualify for the incentive program, but have not yet begun their reporting period, this deadline is a "must make."

The 90 day reporting period is the period in which participating providers must "meaningfully use" certified EHR technology. During this period, they must also ensure that they preserve the data necessary to demonstrate that they met each of the applicable measurements or requirements associated with each meaningful use objective. For stage 1 of the incentive program, attesting providers need only meaningfully use certified EHR technology for a single, continuous 90 day period.

The October 3, 2011 deadline, and the associated 90 day reporting period apply only to participants in the Medicare incentive program. Providers who have elected instead to participate in the Medicaid program need only attest to having adopted, installed, or upgraded ("AIU") certified EHR technology according to state and federal program requirements. Additional information concerning both programs can be found at CMS's [EHR Incentive Program Website](#). Especially helpful for professionals or other providers attempting to track EHR program deadlines is CMS's ["Milestone Timeline" \[PDF\]](#) document.

About Ober|Kaler

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