

## Certified EHR Technology and the EHR Incentive Programs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs<sup>i</sup>. Eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals participating in the EHR Incentive Programs are required to use certified EHR technology in order to receive incentive payments. To get an incentive payment, you must use an EHR that is certified specifically for the EHR Incentive Programs. EHRs certified or qualified for other Medicare or Medicaid incentive programs may not be certified for this program.

To qualify as certified EHR technology for the EHR Incentive Programs, an EHR needs to be tested by one of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology-Authorized Testing and Certification Bodies, otherwise known as the ONC-ATCBs. If an EHR technology has been certified by an ONC-ATCB, it indicates that the EHR technology has the capabilities to support the meaningful use goals and objectives for which it is tested. If you would like to find a list of certified EHR technologies, see <http://onc-chpl.force.com/ehrcert>.

**Note:** You do **not** need to already have certified EHR technology in place when you register for the EHR Incentive Programs. However, you will need to have meaningfully used your certified EHR technology to receive your first year Medicare incentive payment. Under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, you will need to adopt, implement, upgrade, or meaningfully use certified EHR technology in order to receive your first year incentive payment.

### **Want more information about the EHR Incentive Programs and Certified EHR Technology?**

To see more details on certified EHR technology and the latest news and updates on the EHR Incentive Programs visit the EHR Incentive Programs website: <https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms>.

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<sup>i</sup> The Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs were authorized under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The programs provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate “meaningful use” of certified EHR technology in ways that improve quality, safety, and effectiveness of patient-centered care. Under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, eligible professionals can receive as much as \$44,000 over a consecutive five-year period. Under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, eligible professionals can receive as much as \$63,750 over six years. Under both the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, millions of dollars are available for eligible hospitals and CAHs that satisfy program requirements.

<sup>i</sup> This article provides guidance to professionals and hospitals that may be eligible for EHR incentive payments. However, we urge readers to refer to the regulations for definitive rules on eligibility, payment, and other requirements. To the extent anything in this guidance conflicts with such rules and regulations, our rules and regulations would take precedence. Regulations are available at: [http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/60\\_RegulationsNotices.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/60_RegulationsNotices.asp#TopOfPage)