

Payment Information for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs

Payments for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programsⁱ are administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Payments are distributed based on each year of participation, and follow a specific [payment schedule](#), which can be found here. Below are payment details on the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.

Medicare EHR Incentive Program

- **Eligible professionals (EPs):** EPs can receive up to \$44,000 over five years under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program if they begin participation by 2012. There's an additional incentive for EPs who provide services in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- **Eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs):** Incentive payments to eligible hospitals and CAHs may begin as early as 2011, and are based on a number of factors, beginning with a \$2 million base payment.

Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

- **EPs:** The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program is voluntarily offered by states and territories. EPs can receive up to \$63,750 over the six years that they choose to participate in the program. Medicaid EPs must initiate the program by 2016.
- **Eligible hospitals:** Medicaid hospitals that qualify for incentive payments may begin receiving incentive payments as early as FY 2011, but must begin by 2016. Hospital payments are based on a number of factors, beginning with a \$2 million base payment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Medicare Administration Contractors (MACs), carriers, and Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) will not be making Medicare EHR incentive payments. CMS has contracted with a Payment File Development Contractor to make these payments.

DON'T: Call your MAC/Carrier/FI with questions about your EHR incentive payment.

INSTEAD: Call the EHR Information Center

- Hours of Operation: 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Central Time) Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.
- 1-888-734-6433 (primary number) or 888-734-6563 (TTY number).

Make sure to visit the EHR Incentive Programs website at <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms> for the latest news and updates on the EHR Incentive Programs.

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ⁱ 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.

ⁱ 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