What Is the EHR Incentive Program?

The Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program is a CMS initiative designed to facilitate the use of EHRs in clinical settings. By meeting the objectives outlined by CMS, Eligible Professionals (EPs) demonstrate “meaningful use” (MU) and potentially avoid the penalties set to begin this year. The program has 3 Stages: Stage 1, Stage 2 currently under way, and Stage 3, set to begin in 2017.

EHR/Meaningful Use Incentives and Penalties in 2013 and Beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incentive Amount</td>
<td>$8K-$15k</td>
<td>$4K-$12k</td>
<td>$2K-$8k</td>
<td>$2K-$4k</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalty Amount</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-1% (based on 2013 reporting)</td>
<td>-2% (based on 2014 reporting)</td>
<td>-3% (based on 2015 reporting)</td>
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</tbody>
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Requirements

**STAGE 1**
- Report on 13 core objectives
- Report on 5 of 10 menu objectives
- Report on 9 out of 44 CQMs

**STAGE 2**
- Report on ALL 17 core objectives
- Report on 3 of 6 menu objectives
  - If none of the menu objectives are applicable to your scope of practice & you qualify for all of the exclusions for each, then you can select 3 and claim the exclusion for each.
- Report on 9 out of 64 CQMs
  - The CQMs selected must cover at least 3 of the 6 available National Quality Strategy domains.

How to Avoid Penalties

- EPs must meet the Meaningful Use criteria above (20 Core and Menu Objectives and 9 Clinical Quality Measures over the reporting period or;
- Qualify for an exemption for 2015 reporting requirements. Exemptions are granted on an annual basis and must be applied for annually.

Important Information to Keep in Mind

- The last year to begin participation in order to receive an incentive payment was 2014
- The last year that an EP can begin participation is 2016
- To receive the maximum incentive payment, EPs must have started participation by 2012
- Beginning in 2015, EPs who do not successfully demonstrate MU will be subject to a penalty
- Payment reductions start at 1% and increase each year an EP does not demonstrate (max 5%)

Important Dates for 2015

- January 1: Beginning of 2015 reporting period for EPs
- February 28: Attestation Deadline for EPs for the 2014 program year
- July 1: Hardship Exception Deadline to Avoid 2016 Penalties
- October 3: Last day for EPs in their first year to begin 90-day reporting period for CY 2015
- December 31: End of 2015 reporting period for EPs

* Possible Change for 2015: CMS is considering shortening the EHR reporting period in 2015 to 90 days.

Visit the Academy’s website for more detailed information!

http://www.entnet.org/content/electronic-health-records-ehr-and-meaningful-use