



## Successfully Navigating the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Electronic Health Records Incentive Program

### ◆ 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. Providers who demonstrate that they are using their EHRs in ways that can positively impact quality of care are entitled to incentive payments. By meeting the objectives outlined by CMS, Eligible Professionals (EPs) demonstrate “meaningful use” (MU) and potentially avoid the penalties set to begin in 2015. The program has 3 Stages: Stage 1; Stage 2, currently under way; and Stage 3, set to begin in 2016.

### ◆ EHR/Meaningful Use Incentives and Penalties in 2013 and Beyond

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Incentive Amount</b>	\$8K-\$15k	\$4K-\$12k	\$2K-\$8K	\$2K-\$4K	N/A
<b>Penalty Amount</b>	N/A	N/A	-1% (based on 2013 reporting)	-2% (based on 2014 reporting)	-3% (based on 2015 reporting)

### ◆ How to Earn Incentive Payments

1. Determine if you are an eligible professional for the program and register for the program at <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov>
2. Purchase an Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Health IT Certified EHR System. A list of Certified EHRs can be found here: <http://oncchpl.force.com/ehrcert>
3. Report the required number meaningful use objectives (Core Objectives + Menu Objectives) PLUS the required number of clinical quality measures (CQMs). Meet the reporting period requirements.
  - a. For your first year, report data from any continuous 90-day period during the calendar year (any 90 continuous days from January 1st to December 31st).
  - b. After your first year, report for the entire calendar year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013 for example.) Special Note for 2014: All providers, regardless of their stage of MU, are only required to demonstrate MU for a 90-day EHR reporting period because all must upgrade or adopt newly certified EHRs in 2014.

### ◆ How Does STAGE 2 Differ from STAGE 1 ?

#### STAGE 1

- Report on 13 core objectives
- Report on 5 of 10 menu objectives
- Report on 6 out of 44 CQMs

#### STAGE 2

- Report on ALL 17 core objectives
- Report on 3 of 6 menu objectives\*  
Note: 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.

**Note: EPs cannot earn incentives in both the EHR Meaningful Use and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Programs**

### ◆ How to Avoid Penalties

1. EPs must meet the Meaningful Use criteria above (20 Core and Menu Objectives and six Clinical Quality Measures over the reporting period) or;
2. Qualify for an exemption for 2014 reporting requirements. Exemptions are granted on an annual basis and must be applied for annually.





## Successfully Navigating the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Electronic Health Records Incentive Program *Continued*

### EHR Program Changes for 2014

- ◆ ALL providers must adopt the 2014 Edition CEHRT to demonstrate MU, regardless of the stage in which they're currently participating.
- ◆ EHR technology that is certified to the 2014 standards will contain new CQM criteria, and EPs will report using the new 2014 criteria regardless of their stage.
- ◆ Special Reporting Period: All providers are only required to demonstrate MU for a 90-day EHR reporting period because all must upgrade or adopt newly certified EHRs in 2014:  
<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage1ChangesTipsheet.pdf>
- ◆ EPs have the option to electronically report CQM data for the full calendar year of 2014 to receive credit for both the PQRS program and EHR Incentive Program

### Important Dates for 2014

- ◆ March 31st: Attestation Deadline for EPs for the 2013 program year!
- ◆ September 30th: End of 2014 reporting period for eligible hospitals!
- ◆ November 30th: Attestation Deadline for EHRs for the 2014 program year!
- ◆ December 31: End of 2014 reporting period for EPs!

