

IDAHO MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EHR): ADOPT, IMPLEMENT, AND UPGRADE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
<p>1. What does adopt, implement, or upgrade mean?</p>	<p>In the first participation year of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program, eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals (EHs) can receive an incentive payment by attesting to adopting, implementing, or upgrading (AIU) to certified EHR technology.</p> <p>AIU is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt – to acquire, purchase, or secure access to certified EHR technology (e.g., can show proof of purchase). • Implement – to install or start using a certified EHR technology (e.g., provide staff training or data entry of patient demographic information into EHR). • Upgrade – to expand the available functionality of certified EHR technology (e.g., upgrade to certified EHR technology or add new functionality to meet the definition of certified EHR technology). <p>EPs and EHs will be required to report which certified product they adopted, implemented, or upgraded to and upload supporting documentation. The EPs and EHs must retain records for audit purposes for at least six years. If an EP or EH has already been approved for payment and declared a meaningful user for the Medicare program, they do not have to include the AIU documentation when applying to Medicaid.</p>
<p>2. If we have adopted certified EHR technology into our practice, can we register for the incentive program without having our paper files loaded into the EHR system?</p>	<p>Yes, you may still qualify for the incentive payment without having begun to use the EHR system. In your registration, you should select 'adopt' as the method of attestation. As long as you have acquired or purchased a software product in the first year of the program that is certified by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) and can show proof at attestation by uploading a copy of your contract, agreement, or receipt of purchase, you will qualify and can complete registration.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>3. My practice is struggling in the current economy and cannot afford an EHR system. Are there any grants available to help?</p>	<p>Under the Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, providers may qualify for incentive payments if they demonstrate AIU or meaningful use in their first year of participation, but this money is not available prior to AIU.</p> <p>Under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, there are no grants or upfront money available for the purchase of EHR technology. These incentives are not intended to cover costs, but rather to encourage adoption and meaningful use of certified EHR technology.</p>
<p>4. If my EHR system costs much more than the incentive the government will pay, may I request additional funds?</p>	<p>The Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program does not provide for incentive payments beyond the limits established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), regardless of the cost of the EHR system chosen by the EP or EH. The purpose of the incentive payments is to encourage the adoption and meaningful use of certified EHR technology for improved health outcomes, not to act as a reimbursement for the system or support costs.</p>
<p>5. What documentation is acceptable for verifying AIU?</p>	<p>Providers will be required, as part of the state level registration and attestation process, to verify AIU of a certified system. Examples of documentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a signed vendor contract • a receipt of purchase • a valid user agreement • a signed lease agreement • other legally binding documentation <p>In addition, Idaho is requesting that EPs (not hospitals) include evidence of the number of licenses the practice or clinic has access to. Blanket licenses that identify the site where there is license to use the system is also acceptable. Be specific and concise with the supporting documentation you provide. For group practices and clinics sharing the same EHR system, we suggest gathering the AIU and license documentation and creating one PDF file (limit total size to 5MB) to give to all associated EPs so they can upload the file during their Idaho application or attestation.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>6. Am I eligible for the incentive payment if I bought my system prior to this program being launched?</p>	<p>Yes. If you are an EP or EH that meets the eligibility criteria and your EHR is a certified system, you may receive incentive payments. You must register for the Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program (at the CMS site) to begin the process.</p>
<p>7. If I use a “free” EHR system or have access to such a system through another individual or organization, do I qualify for the incentive program?</p>	<p>When a provider or practice is using a certified EHR system for which there is no financial obligation, the following documentation should be included as proof that the provider/practice has access to the system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of Page One of the license agreement. • A screenshot from the EHR system indicating the software’s name and version. • A copy of the EHR system’s screen that displays, at a minimum, the provider’s name and the name of the free software (usually a header at the top of each screen). • A copy of the ONC certification website screenshot indicating the system and assigned certification number. <p>In addition, if the access is through an arrangement with another individual or organization, a copy of the agreement between the owner of the system and the applicant indicating the name and version of the software must be included.</p>
<p>8. Based on access to their clinic’s certified EHR technology, can dentists attest to having adopted certified EHR technology even if the technology does not currently appear to allow the dentists to meet the objectives of meaningful use needed for successive years?</p>	<p>Yes, the dentist can attest to AIU in that scenario. However, for participation years two through six, they must be able to meet the objectives of meaningful use to continue meeting the requirements for incentive payments.</p>

Question	Answer
9. Can we begin the national level registration process while we are still choosing an EHR?	Yes, you can complete registration at the national level while you are still choosing an EHR. However, during the state application process, you must have purchased the certified EHR so that you can enter the certified product number and submit necessary documentation during attestation.
10. I am a dually-eligible hospital and have already registered for a Medicare incentive payment for meaningful use; do I have to submit AIU documentation with my application to Medicaid?	<p>If you have already been approved for payment and declared a meaningful user for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, you are deemed a meaningful user for the Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and already meet the necessary requirements for Medicaid AIU or meaningful use. Therefore, you DO NOT have to include the AIU documentation when you apply and attest for a Medicaid EHR incentive payment. However, you will still be required to meet the state Medicaid requirements (e.g., patient volume, Medicaid provider) before you are eligible for a Medicaid EHR incentive payment.</p> <p>If you have not yet attested or been approved for a Medicare EHR incentive payment, or this is your first payment year and you want to pursue a Medicaid EHR incentive payment before a Medicare EHR incentive payment, you WILL BE REQUIRED to submit AIU documentation to Medicaid. In following years, your attestation for Medicare meaningful use will continue to deem you as a meaningful user for the Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program for that same payment year.</p>