

Idaho Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program Update November 2011

- Currently thirty-nine states have launched their Medicaid Incentive Programs and 23 states have made Medicaid incentive payments to providers.
- Nationally, Medicaid payment numbers have been posted through September 2011. As of that time, 6,767 eligible professionals and hospitals had received Medicaid incentive payments totaling \$514,769,308. The Medicaid and Medicare programs combined have paid 10,647 providers for a total of \$872,168,698 in incentive payments.
- Idaho Medicaid submitted the Idaho State Medicaid HIT Plan (SMHP) as well as the Implementation-Advanced Planning Document (I-APD) to CMS for approval on 11-22-11.
- Approval from CMS may take up to three months. However, Idaho has been told that we are likely to receive approval much faster, possibly by the first of the year. Once the SMHP is approved, Medicaid expects building the program could take an additional six months.
- An implementation date still has not yet been set. Two unknowns remain: the speed of CMS's approval of the state's plan as well as the time required to build and test the system solution to have it performing for Idaho as needed.
- The system solution selected is one currently in use in Kentucky's EHR Incentive program and is also being implemented in Wyoming. It will be hosted internally and include a provider portal where Idaho providers will attest to their eligibility, a database, and a bidirectional interface with the national registration site (often referred to as the NLR).
- A hospital payment calculation worksheet has been approved by CMS. This will allow us to calculate each hospital's potential Medicaid incentive payment prior to launch. Interested hospitals are encouraged to contact us directly. Medicaid will also work closely with the Idaho Hospital Association in this effort. The goal of predetermining the hospital payments is to allow for full transparency of that process and to decrease the risk of disputes on payment amounts after the program launches.
- Medicaid has begun working with the Idaho Primary Care Association, and will soon initiate similar efforts with Indian Health Clinics and Rural Health Clinics. The goal is to walk through the eligibility verification process and solicit input on what documentation will be used to determine eligibility.
- During the three months prior to launch, Medicaid expects to provide both webinars and conference calls for eligible providers and hospitals that will focus on attestation and eligibility verification.
- Medicaid expects that for the first three months of launch there will be a large influx of applications. This has been the experience of most other states. This initial push will slow down the eligibility determination process somewhat. Medicaid is gearing up for this push in an effort to offset that initial heavy workload.
- Auditing is scheduled to begin four months after launch of the program.
- For more information, please visit www.MedicaidEHR.dhw.idaho.gov. An 'Ask the Program' feature is available that allows you to send the Medicaid project team a question or comment at any time.
- Medicaid welcomes the opportunity to share information about the EHR incentive program, especially as the implementation date approaches. Please let us know if there are provider outreach opportunities through your stakeholder organizations that you would like us to be involved in. Feel free to contact Michele Turbert by email at turbertm@dhw.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 364-1946.