

IDAHO MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS (EHR): MEANINGFUL USE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
<p>What is meaningful use and what are the requirements?</p>	<p>Meaningful use of an EHR is demonstrated by providers and hospitals reporting on a number of required functional and clinical objectives established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Meaningful use describes how the EHR is used by the provider so that the focus isn't on what the technology can do, but on how it is actually used in practice. Meaningful use means providers need to show they're using certified EHR technology in ways that the quality and quantity can be measured.</p> <p>The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 specifies three main components of meaningful use:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using a certified EHR technology in a meaningful way (such as e-prescribing). 2. Using a certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information to improve health care quality. 3. Using a certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures. <p>Stage one meaningful use requirements to qualify for incentive payments were released on July 13, 2010. The final rule outlines all the specifics of stage one meaningful use and clinical quality measure reporting to receive the incentive payments.</p> <p>For more detailed information about meaningful use, please visit CMS's website.</p>
<p>When do providers have to meet meaningful use requirements for Medicaid?</p>	<p>For the first participation year which started July 2012, the Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will not be accepting reports on the meaningful use objectives, and eligible providers (EPs) and eligible hospitals (EHs) will receive the first year payments by demonstrating they have adopted, implemented, or upgraded (AIU) to</p>

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	<p>a certified EHR system. Beginning in the second participation year, the Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will accept reports on meaningful use objectives, and providers will be required to submit these reports in order to continue receiving payments after their AIU year.</p> <p>In the second participation year, EPs must attest to meeting the meaningful use criteria for any continuous 90-day period within the calendar year, and EHs must attest to meaningful use for any continuous 90-day period within the federal fiscal year.</p> <p>For subsequent payment years after meeting the meaningful use requirements for 90 days, EPs will need to attest that they meet the meaningful use requirements for 365 days during their subsequent calendar year, and EHs for their subsequent federal fiscal year.</p>
<p>If I am not a meaningful user in the second participation year, will I be penalized?</p>	<p>No, there is no penalty for not meeting meaningful use in year two in the Idaho Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Both the EP and EH are allowed to skip a year's participation and still receive the full amount of the incentive payment. The providers will not receive a payment in year two if they do not attest to meaningful use, but there will be no penalty.</p>
<p>Can I implement an EHR system and satisfy meaningful use requirements at any time within the calendar year?</p>	<p>No, the first year of meaningful use must cover a period of 90 days. For EPs, that period must start no later than October 3. For EHs, that period must start no later than July 3. In subsequent years, meaningful use must be met for the full calendar year for EPs and the full federal fiscal year for EHs. Please note, for the 2012 program year, Idaho Medicaid will only be able to receive AIU attestation.</p>