

Next Steps

The next step is for Medicaid to develop and submit to CMS the State Medicaid HIT Plan (SMHP). CMS requires that Idaho have an approved SMHP before Idaho Medicaid can implement the provider incentive payment program. Medicaid will take the following steps to complete the SMHP:

1. Conduct a survey of health care providers and institutions in Idaho to ascertain the current health information technology landscape in Idaho. This survey should identify the number of providers who have already adopted electronic health records, how they are being used, if providers currently without EHRs plan to adopt them in the near future, and how many providers and institutions are planning to apply for incentive payments through Medicaid and/or Medicare (only hospitals may apply for both).
2. Work with key stakeholders in the state to identify the health information technology (HIT) vision for Idaho five years from now; where will Idaho be in terms of adoption and meaningful use of EHRs and HIT. The SMHP will focus on the vision for Medicaid professionals and institutions.
3. Once the vision is set for what the Medicaid HIT landscape in Idaho is expected to look like in the future, identify the steps Medicaid will take to support attainment of the Medicaid future vision. A roadmap will be created that coordinates tasks with other key organizations to efficiently and effectively move Idaho towards this future HIT vision.
4. Describe the state's planned methodologies for administering the incentive payment program to Medicaid professionals and hospitals. This includes a description of how Medicaid will verify eligibility, disburse payments, curtail fraud and abuse and assure financial oversight and program integrity.

Once these four steps are complete Medicaid must write the State Medicaid HIT Plan (SMHP) for Idaho that includes all of the information described above. That plan must then be submitted to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) for approval.

When the SMHP is approved, Medicaid will submit an Implementation-Advanced Planning Document to CMS for approval, and once that approval is received, Medicaid can begin to develop the incentive program. An implementation date has not yet been set. The implementation date is dependent upon the speed of CMS approval of the state's plan which is unknown, as well as the time required to build and test the system solution. However, we are going to implement in 2012.