

Update on Idaho's Electronic Health Record Incentive Program

January 2011

Important News! On January 3, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) announced that they had opened registration for the Medicare and Medicaid electronic health record (EHR) incentive programs. Registration is the first step toward obtaining an incentive payment for both eligible professionals and hospitals. The Web site for registration is referred to as the National Level Repository. However, it is important to note that Idaho Medicaid **is not** yet prepared to receive registrations for Medicaid incentives.

Here's what you need to know to register for Medicare and, eventually, Medicaid incentives:

- Professionals who meet eligibility requirements for both the Medicare and Medicaid incentives must select only **one** program from which to collect an incentive payment.
- Professionals who select Medicare can register now at the National Level Repository.
- Since Idaho Medicaid is not yet ready to receive registrations, eligible professionals who attempt to register for a Medicaid incentive won't be allowed to proceed. The registration tool will direct them to the local Medicaid program.
- Idaho hospitals are potentially eligible to receive a payment from **both** Medicaid and Medicare. Any hospital wishing to receive incentive payments from both programs, or from Medicare alone, can register now. CMS is prepared to process all registrations for Medicare payments. However if a hospital wishes to receive incentives from BOTH Medicaid and Medicare, they must register as dual eligible hospitals. The registration for the Medicaid payment will simply be pended until Idaho Medicaid is ready to implement its' program. The Medicare registration for payment will be processed.

Other Information About Registration

- To prepare for registration, interested providers should first familiarize themselves with the incentive programs' requirements by visiting CMS's [Official Web Site for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs](#). The site provides general and detailed information about the programs including payment, eligibility, meaningful use, certified EHR technology, and frequently asked questions.
- The CMS has developed User's Guides for professionals and hospitals who want to register. Those manuals are on the CMS Web site at [Registration and Attestation EHR Incentive Programs](#).
- The CMS has also established a call center for providers intending to register. Providers can call the EHR Information Center at (888) 734-6433 or (888) 734-6563 (TTY number) to get help with program and system inquiries. The information center will be open from 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Central Time) Monday through Friday (except federal holidays). Program inquiries will include topics such as eligibility, attestation, and payment; while system inquiries will

include topics such as registration and state file transmissions. The information center will not interpret policy or give provider specific direction or advice.

Other News

- The ONC's [Certified HIT Product List](#) includes more than 130 certified EHR systems or modules and is updated frequently.
- Here are some important dates for Medicare incentives:
 - April 2011 – Attestation for the Medicare EHR incentive program begins.
 - May 2011 – Issuing of Medicare EHR incentive payments expected to begin.
 - July 3, 2011 – Last day for eligible hospitals to begin their 90-day reporting period to demonstrate meaningful use for the Medicare EHR incentive program for federal fiscal year 2011.
 - Sept. 30, 2011 – Federal fiscal year 2011 payment year ends at midnight for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals.
 - Oct. 3, 2011 – Last day for eligible professionals to begin their 90-day reporting period for calendar year 2011 to demonstrate meaningful use for the Medicare EHR incentive program.
- Here are some important dates for Medicaid incentives:
 - Sept. 30, 2011 – Federal fiscal year 2011 payment year ends at midnight for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals wishing to receive a Medicaid incentive.
 - Nov. 30, 2011 – Last day for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals to register and attest to receive a Medicaid incentive payment for federal fiscal year 2011.
 - Dec. 31, 2011 – Calendar year 2011 payment year ends for eligible professionals.
 - February 29, 2012 - Last day for eligible professionals to register and attest to receive an incentive payment for calendar year 2011.
- For help deciding whether it makes more sense to enter the Medicare or Medicaid incentive program, please contact your WIREC consultant at [WIREC | Washington & Idaho Regional Extension Center for HIT](#).
- The responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking help writing Idaho's State Medicaid HIT Plan have been scored and selection and contract development are currently underway. Idaho Medicaid hopes that a contractor will be in place to begin this work within the next eight weeks.
- Idaho Medicaid is currently in the process of estimating the number of providers and hospitals expected to apply for incentives in Idaho. That estimate will help Medicaid develop the State Medicaid HIT Plan, especially as it relates to staff resources and budget needed.

- The Idaho Provider Outreach and Health IT Advisory Council will meet for the second time on January 20, 2011.
- Idaho Medicaid is working with CMS and two other states to look at alternative, less costly approaches for implementing the program. That work is going well and will help get an Idaho Medicaid HIT Plan approved.

We look forward to working with you to successfully implement the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program in Idaho. Thank you for your interest and please share this information with others in the health care community.