

Attest to Meaningful Use before October 1, 2014 to avoid Medicare Payment Adjustment in 2015

PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS

Beginning January 1, 2015 for Medicare Eligible Professionals, providers participating in the Medicaid or Medicare EHR Incentive Program must demonstrate Meaningful Use to avoid a Payment Adjustment.

Medicaid Providers who are only eligible to participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program are NOT subject to these Payment Adjustments.

TIMELINE

If you are a Medicare eligible provider who first demonstrated Meaningful Use in 2014, you must attest to a three-month (90-day) Meaningful Use before October 1, 2014 to avoid 2015 and 2016's payment adjustment.

If you are a Medicare eligible provider who attested to Meaningful Use *prior to 2014*, you must continue to demonstrate Meaningful Use in Program Year 2014 to avoid 2016's payment adjustment.

If you are a Medicare eligible provider but have only attested to Adopt, Implement, or Upgrade (AIU) with Medicaid, you still need to attest to Meaningful Use in 2014 to avoid Medicare's payment reduction in 2015 and 2016.

HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS

Eligible Professionals may be exempt from Payment Adjustments if they can show that demonstrating Meaningful Use would result in a significant hardship.

To be considered for an exemption, Eligible Professionals must complete a Hardship Exception application along with the proof of hardship.

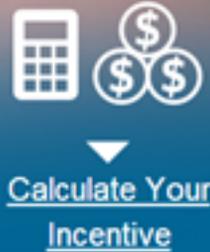
The deadline for 2015's exception application has passed (July 1, 2014). However, CMS will accept 2016's applications soon.

The following providers are exempt from the payment adjustment without submitting a Hardship Application:

- New providers participating in their first year
- Eligible Professionals who are hospital-based
- Eligible Professionals with specific PECOS Specialties (05, 22, 30, 36, 96)

For more information regarding Payment Adjustments and Hardship Exceptions, please visit:
http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/paymentadj_hardship.html

In partnership with Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), Maryland recently launched a new Meaningful Use Resource Center. The website is a comprehensive tool that provides health care professionals with technical assistance in selecting and implementing an EHR, applying for the financial incentives, achieving Meaningful Use, etc.



Payment Distribution Table			
Patient Volume Requirement	Payments Received	MU Stage	Payment Amount
You must have 30% Medicaid patient volume for continuous 90 days in 2013.	0	AIU	\$21,250
	1	Stage 1 - 90 days in 2014	\$8,500
	2	Stage 1 - 90 days in 2014	\$8,500

The Incentive Wizard helps health care providers determine eligibility for federal EHR Incentive Programs, current stage of the Meaningful Use, and future estimated incentive amount.

Using the wizard, providers can find out how to participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program in program year 2014 by attesting to both patient volume from 2013 and Adoption, Implementation, or Upgrades (AIU) to Certified EHR Technology.

For example, if Dr. Smith received one payment for his AIU attestation in 2013, he will attest to 90-day Meaningful Use Stage 1 this year and his payment for program year 2014 will be \$8,500.