

December 8, 2010

What is the CMS Electronic Health Record Incentive Program?

Through CMS, eligible Medicaid providers can receive up to \$63,750 per provider for adopting and implementing a certified electronic health record (EHR) system and achieving Meaningful Use. The program is a result of federal funds made available through the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, a component of ARRA, in 2009.

What is the Arizona Regional Extension Center?

The Arizona Regional Extension Center (REC) is one of 62 federally designated outreach and education centers nationwide. The REC was awarded a \$10.8 million grant to offer subsidized EHR technical assistance and education to REC eligible providers to assist with adoption or optimization of EHRs and achievement of Meaningful Use.

How is the Arizona Regional Extension Center Working with AHCCCS?

The REC is working closely with AHCCCS to ensure coordination with Arizona's EHR incentive program. AHCCCS is the point of contact for payment questions related to the EHR incentive program; whereas, the REC is the point of contact for technical questions and support related to EHR implementation and adoption.

What Should I Know Now About the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program?

- For the first participation year, a Medicaid eligible professional need only do one of the following:
 - Adopt a certified EHR
 - Implement a certified EHR
 - Upgrade to certified EHR or add new functionality to meet certification requirements.
- There are five types of Medicaid eligible professionals (MDs, DOs, NPs, CNMs, dentists, PA-led FQHC or RHC) and two general types of hospitals (acute care, including CAHs, and children's hospitals).
- Program sunsets in 2021; last year to initiate participation is 2016.
- Maximum incentive for Medicaid eligible professionals (EPs) is \$63,750.
- All Medicaid eligible professionals and hospitals must register with the National Level Repository (NLR) via the CMS Incentive Program website (available early 2011); After registering with CMS/NLR, Arizona Medicaid eligible professionals and hospitals must register with AHCCCS (available summer 2011).
- AHCCCS begins administering incentive payments (summer 2011).

What Should I Know Now About the REC?

- REC eligible providers that sign-up by December 31, 2010 will receive 12 months of free technical assistance services and education. **Call 602.688.7200 to learn more about eligibility!**
- The REC will create a customized program to get a practice to Meaningful Use. Assistance is available to those with EHRs, who just need some help optimizing their system to achieve Meaningful Use, or those going paper to electronic with more extensive needs.

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