

December 27, 2010

Dear Healthcare Professionals,

Below, there are four updates on the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, which were issued last week:

- Registration Date Announced for Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs
- New FAQs from the Office of the National Coordinator Available
- Eligibility Widget Now Available
- Tip Sheet for Eligible Hospitals and CAHs on Meaningful Use Core and Menu Set Objectives Issued

Remember that you can always get the most current information on the EHR Incentive Programs at: <http://www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/>

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### **Registration Date Announced for Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs**

Beginning Jan. 3, 2011, registration will be available for eligible health care professionals and eligible hospitals who wish to participate in the Medicare EHR incentive program. On January 3, registration in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will also be available in Alaska, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. In February, registration will open in California, Missouri, and North Dakota. Other states likely will launch their Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs during the spring and summer of 2011.

Eligible professionals and eligible hospitals must register in order to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs. They can do so, starting Jan. 3, 2011, at a registration site maintained by CMS.

To prepare for registration, interested providers should first familiarize themselves with the incentive programs' requirements by visiting CMS' [Official Web Site for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs](#). The site provides general and detailed information on the programs, including tabs on the path to payment, eligibility, meaningful use, certified EHR technology, and frequently asked questions.

For more information, please read the complete [complete CMA 12/22/2010 press release](#).

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### **New FAQs from the Office of the National Coordinator Available**

The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) has updated their list of Frequently Asked Questions to help clarify any questions around the requirement for professionals and hospitals to possess certified EHR technology to all of the applicable certification criteria adopted in ONC's Standards and Certification Criteria Final Rule. The complete list of FAQs from ONC is available at: [http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/onc\\_regulations\\_faqs/3163](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/onc_regulations_faqs/3163). Reference FAQs 17 and 21 for the most updated information.

You can also find a blog post from Dr. David Blumenthal, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, which addresses the questions, at <http://healthit.hhs.gov/blog/onc/index.php/2010/12/23/affirming-flexibility%E2%80%A6with-certified-ehr-systems/>

## Eligibility Widget Now Available

You may be familiar with the Incentive Program Eligibility Tool that was issued several weeks ago. We have now made that tool available as a widget, which you can make available from your own web page. The widget is available at: <http://www.browserspring.com/widgets/cms/test.html>

To use this widget:

- Click on the link above
- Click “Get & Share” at the bottom of the image on the page that opens
- You can click ‘Copy Code’ to get the embed code you can use to post the widget to your website.

You can also share the widget over Twitter, Facebook, and MySpace, or via email.

Using the widget, providers and hospitals will be able to determine if they are eligible to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.

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## Tip Sheet for Eligible Hospitals and CAHs on Meaningful Use Core and Menu Set Objectives Issued

As a companion to the “Stage 1 EHR Meaningful Use Measures for Eligible Professionals” tip sheet, CMS has issued a tip sheet for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) on the Stage 1 Meaningful Use Core and Menu Set Objectives.

The Tip Sheet is available at:

[http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Hosp\\_CA\\_H\\_MU-TOC.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Hosp_CA_H_MU-TOC.pdf)

This sheet provides an outline of the 24 Core and Menu Set measures that make-up meaningful use for eligible hospitals and CAHs for Stage 1 of the CMS EHR Incentive Program. Included are definitions of terms, attestation requirements, and additional clarifications, as applicable, by measure. I’ve heard back from several people who found the information for Eligible Professionals to be very helpful, so I encourage all hospital and CAH representatives to take a few minutes and review the tip sheet.

As a reminder, you can access the information for Eligible Professionals at

<http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/EP-MU-TOC.pdf> This link should replace the link sent earlier, as this is our most current version and will be kept current moving forward.

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As a reminder, you can access the most current information available from CMS on the EHR Incentive Programs at [www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms). We also maintain a list of Frequently Asked Questions on the program that is updated regularly. The FAQs are available by category at [www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/99j\\_Frequently\\_Asked\\_Questions.asp](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/99j_Frequently_Asked_Questions.asp) and the complete list is available here: <http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/list/p/21,26,1139>

Additionally, you can follow the CMS Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/CMSSGov> for ongoing information on the Medicare program.

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