Meaningful Use Attestation

CHEAT SHEET

Overview

General Questions

1. What is Meaningful Use?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have developed the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive program that provides incentive payments to eligible healthcare providers who attest to the “meaningful use” of an EHR technology.

The program has two options – one focused on Medicare and one focused on Medicaid. This document provides an overview of the Medicare program. More information about the Medicaid program is available here.

Meaningful Use allows eligible providers to:

• Collect as much as $43,720 during the course of five years for those participating since 2011, and up to $23,520 over 3 years for those beginning the program in 2014.

• Avoid financial penalties (e.g., payment reductions) that will start in 2015 if you do not successfully demonstrate the Meaningful Use of an EHR.

It's important to note that this program and its rewards are intended for individual providers. Practices cannot participate – each doctor within a practice has to participate separately.

More details about how the program was established, and why, can be found on the CMS website.

2. How do I qualify for an incentive payment?

You need to:

• Confirm that CMS considers you an “eligible healthcare professional” (or hospital) here.

• You’ll learn whether you’re eligible for the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, or both programs. But you will need to pick one.

• Having confirmed your eligibility, register for the program. You don’t need to have your EHR yet to do this, nor does registering obligate you to buy one.

• Get to know the Meaningful Use criteria so you understand what is expected of you.
• **Buy a certified EHR.** (More on that in a moment.)

• **Attest** that you’ve met the Meaningful Use criteria. To do that for the 2014 reporting period, the timeline is as follows:

  o If you are in your first year of the Meaningful Use program you only need to report over a 90-day period within the calendar year. However, you must begin your 90-day reporting period no later than July 1, 2014 and complete attestation by October 1, 2014 to avoid any Medicare reimbursement penalties.

  o If you are beyond your first year of the Meaningful Use program you will need to report for one 3-month period fixed to the quarter of the calendar year.

  o In subsequent years, you must meaningfully use an EHR for the entire calendar year.

For **MU Stage 1**, you have to meet 18 total objectives (13 core objectives and 5 menu objectives) and 9 Clinical Quality Measures (CQMs). For attestation, CMS has a **worksheet** to help you get organized, and a **calculator** that allows you to test whether you’ve successfully met the criteria needed to get paid.

For **MU Stage 2**, you have to meet 20 total objectives (17 core objectives and 3 menu objectives) and 9 CQMs. It’s important to note that you must successfully attest to two years of Stage 1 before moving to Stage 2. Learn more about what Stage you should be attesting to by following the CMS participation timeline.

### 3. How much money can I qualify for?

How much money you qualify for depends on two things: when you first attest and how long you participate in the program. It works like this:

- You get paid for each year you participate.

- The sooner you start, the more money you can get.

- The annual payment will be 75% of your Medicare-allowed charges up to a maximum cap.

### Medicare EHR Incentive Payment Timeline for Eligible Professionals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>START YEAR</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>TOTAL MAXIMUM PAYMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Stage1</td>
<td>Stage1</td>
<td>Stage1</td>
<td>Stage2</td>
<td>Stage2</td>
<td>Stage3</td>
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<td>$7,840</td>
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<td>Stage1</td>
<td>Stage1</td>
<td>Stage2</td>
<td>Stage2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>Stage2</td>
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</table>

**NOTE:** Payment Timeline includes the Sequestration reduction as of April 2013
4. When and how will I get paid?

You will find out immediately whether your attestation has been successful. If your attestation is unsuccessful, CMS allows you to go back, check the information entered and edit it – or resubmit later.

- CMS promises payment 8-12 weeks after your successful attestation (assuming you have met the allowed charges threshold for covered professional services).
- CMS sends the money to the Taxpayer Identification Number you selected during your registration, through the same channels your claims payments are made.

5. Is it too late to attest for 2014 dollars?

No. If you are beyond your first year of Meaningful Use, you have until October 1st to begin meaningfully using an EHR and complete the consecutive 90-day requirement that allows you to attest and receive 2014 dollars. If you are in your first year of Meaningful Use, you have until July 1st to begin meaningfully using an EHR for the 90-day reporting period to avoid any financial penalties. That said, we don’t recommend turning on your new EHR at the very last minute.

6. What if I don’t take part in the Meaningful Use program at all?

The last year to begin participation in the EHR Incentive program is 2014.

If you decide to forego the program altogether… Well, we’ll quote CMS for the bad news:

“For 2015 and later, Medicare eligible professionals who do not successfully demonstrate Meaningful Use will have a payment adjustment to their Medicare reimbursement. The payment reduction starts at 1% and increases each year that a Medicare eligible professional does not demonstrate Meaningful Use, to a maximum of 5%.”

CareCloud and Meaningful Use

1. Is CareCloud’s EHR certified for Meaningful Use?

Absolutely. CareCloud Charts, our EHR solution, is certified by the Drummond Group as a 2014 Edition Complete Ambulatory EHR. It’s important to note you can no longer use a 2011 Edition certified EHR in 2014.

As of early 2014, we are one of only a small group of vendors who has an EHR certified for both Stage 1 and Stage 2, out of the many thousands of vendors who had EHRs certified only for Stage 1.

2. How will CareCloud help me to achieve Meaningful Use?

CareCloud will provide you with the certified technology needed to attest for Meaningful Use. As part of our implementation and training processes, we’ll emphasize the features you’ll need to use to support that process. We also provide additional resources through our web-based learning community including articles, videos, and Q&A forums to help you meet your Meaningful Use goals.
While other vendors may offer to steer the process for you, it typically comes at a price: taking a portion of your Meaningful Use dollars. Our experience has found that available public resources from CMS as well as the materials that we put together are thorough and sufficient for practices...and you get to keep 100% of your incentive payments.

3. Where can I learn more about CareCloud Charts?

Please visit: on.carecloud.com/EHR-play.html to watch a 2-minute video overview of the Charts EHR system.

4. Where can I learn more about Meaningful Use in 2014?

Check out the microsite we put together at carecloud.com/meaningful-use