Meaningful Use Incentive Program
Registration is Open

On January 3, 2011, registration for the Medicare Meaningful Use Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program became available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website. By participating in this program, eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) will receive incentive payments for demonstrating meaningful use of certified HER technology. The following timeline has been provided by CMS for Stage 1 of the Medicare meaningful use EHR Incentive Program:

- January 3, 2011 – Registration for the Medicare EHR incentive program begins
- 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 FY 2011
- September 30, 2011 – Federal FY 2011 payment year ends at midnight for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs)
- October 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
- November 30, 2011 – Last day for eligible hospitals and CAHs to register and attest to receive an incentive payment for federal fiscal year 2011
- December 31, 2011 – Calendar 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 (CY) 2011

In addition to the above established timeline, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT has issued a final rule establishing a permanent certification program for the Medicare and Medicaid meaningful use EHR incentive program. Hospitals
and healthcare providers that participate in the meaningful use program must use an approved health IT professional.

Although registration for the Medicaid Incentive Program also opened on January 3, 2011, only the following states were open for participation on this date: Alaska, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Registration is set to open in California, Missouri, and North Dakota in February 2011 while other states will introduce their Medicaid EHR Incentive Program throughout the spring and summer of 2011.

If you would like additional information on this initiative, please contact the expert listed below at (800) 270-9629.

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