



New York State Electronic Health Record Incentive Program
New York Office of the Medicaid Inspector General

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What is the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program?

The EHR incentive program was established by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The program aims to transform the nation's health care system and improve the quality, safety and efficiency of patient health care through the use of electronic health records.

Effective July 13, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health Services (HHS), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of National Coordinator (ONC) released the final rule providing the parameters and requirements for the Medicaid EHR incentive program under the HITECH Act.

The Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) is in the process of developing a system to manage incentive payments for New York's eligible providers.

EHR Incentive Program Eligibility

The following eligible professionals and hospitals may participate in the EHR incentive program:

Eligible Professionals

- Physicians
- Nurse practitioners
- Certified nurse-midwives
- Dentists

- Physician assistants who are working in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC) that is led by a physician assistant

Providers can review the [EHR Incentive Programs: Eligibility](#) page on the CMS Web site for more information.

Eligible Hospitals

- Acute-care hospitals (including critical access hospitals and cancer hospitals)
- Children’s hospitals

Incentive Payments – Eligible Professionals

- Maximum incentives are \$63,750 over six years
- First-year payment is \$21,250 if a provider adopts, implements or upgrades certified EHR technology
- Incentive payments are same regardless of starting year
- Must begin by 2016 to receive incentive payments

Providers can review the [EHR Incentive Programs: Overview](#) page on the CMS Web site for more information.

Incentive Payments – Eligible Hospitals

Hospital incentive payments are based on a formula provided in the statute that can be reviewed on the [EHR Incentive Programs: Hospitals](#) page and the [Medicaid Hospital Incentive Payment Calculations](#) document.

EHR Incentive Program Eligibility for New York State

- Eligible professionals must be fully licensed and credentialed in New York and may not be excluded from receiving federal funding.
- Eligible professionals and hospitals must demonstrate adoption, implementation or upgrade a certified EHR system and “meaningful use” of the technology in order to qualify for the incentive payments.
- “Meaningful use” is defined as using certified EHR technology to:
 - Improve quality, safety, efficiency and reduce health disparities
 - Engage patients and families in their health care
 - Improve care coordination
 - Improve population and public health
 - All the while maintaining privacy and security

To learn about certification and certified EHRs, as well as other programs designed to support providers, please review the [Electronic Health Records and Meaningful Use](#) page on the HHS Web site.

OMIG is currently refining some of the eligibility requirements in alignment with the CMS final rule.

New York State EHR Incentive Program Eligibility: Professionals

Professionals must not be hospital-based (i.e., may not perform 90 percent or more of their services in a hospital inpatient or emergency room setting) and must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have a minimum 30 percent Medicaid patient volume
- Have a minimum 20 percent Medicaid patient volume if they are a pediatrician
- Practice predominantly in a FQHC or RHC and have a minimum 30 percent patient volume attributable to needy individuals

Providers can review the [EHR Incentive Programs: Medicaid Eligible Professional](#) page on the CMS Web site for more information.

New York State EHR Incentive Program Eligibility: Hospitals

Acute-Care Hospitals

Acute-care hospitals include cancer hospitals, critical access hospitals and short-term general hospitals that meet all of the following criteria:

- Hospitals that have a CMS Certification Number (CCN) with the last four digits ending in the series 0001 – 0879 or 1300 – 1399 are eligible.
- It must have 10 percent Medicaid patient volume in order to participate.
- It is a primary health care facility where the average length of patient stay is 25 days or less.

Children's Hospitals

Only those hospitals that have CCNs in the 3300 – 3399 series are considered eligible children's hospitals.

Providers can review the [EHR Incentive Programs: Hospitals](#) page on the CMS Web site for more information.

EHR Incentive Program Start Date

Effective January 1, 2011, OMIG will begin enrolling qualified providers. Information about the payment process will be published in future *Medicaid Updates*.

EHR Incentive Program Provider Registration Start

Effective January 1, 2011, all providers must register with the National Level Repository (NLR) through CMS. There will be additional registration required with OMIG once CMS reports on registered providers. More details about the registration for New York providers will be published in future *Medicaid Updates*.

Effective January 1, 2011 when the program begins, a link on the “registration” page of the CMS Web site will be available. Providers can use this central Web site to get information about the program and link to its online registration system. We expect to have the New York State Medicaid Incentive Payment System (MIPS) available online for registration in the near future.

Additional helpful links:

CMS Main Page for the HER Incentive Program

<https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/>

Overview

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage

Spotlight and Upcoming Events

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/05_Spotlight_and_Upcoming_Events.asp#TopOfPage

Getting Started

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/08_Getting_Started.asp#TopOfPage

Eligibility

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/20_Eligibility.asp#TopOfPage

Certification

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/30_Certification.asp#TopOfPage

Meaningful Use

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/35_Meaningful_Use.asp#TopOfPage

Registration

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/50_Registration.asp#TopOfPage

Medicaid Eligible Professional

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/65_Medicaid_Eligible_Professional.asp#TopOfPage

Hospitals

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/75_Hospitals.asp#TopOfPage

Information for States

https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/91_Information_for_States.asp#TopOfPage

Frequently Asked Questions and Educational Materials

<https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/FAQED/list.asp#TopOfPage>