

Update on Medicare electronic health records incentive payment program

ISSUE: The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 included a program of Medicare (and Medicaid) incentive payments to providers who become “meaningful users” of certified electronic health record (EHR) technology. CMS is responsible for defining the criteria for “meaningful use” through rule-making and administering the program. CMS began distributing EHR incentive payments in May 2011.

KEY POINTS: CMS has issued approximately \$2.1 billion in Medicare EHR incentive payments over the past year. In March 2012, the agency issued a notice of proposed rule-making to define the second stage of EHR meaningful use criteria.

ACTION: The Commission will review and discuss materials prepared by staff to update them on the status of the program.

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