

Attestation Is Open for the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program!

On April 18, 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) opened attestation for the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program. Now eligible professionals (EPs), eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) that have registered for the program can attest that they have demonstrated meaningful use of certified EHR technology, and be one step closer to receiving their Medicare incentive payments authorized by the 2009 Recovery Act.

Steps for Participating in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program

- **Verify eligibility for the EHR Incentive Programs.** Eligibility guidelines are listed on CMS' [Eligibility page](#), and you can select the incentive program—Medicare or Medicaid—in which they want to participate.
- **Get registered.** Registration is open for EPs, eligible hospitals, and CAHs. Visit the [Registration page](#) for more details.
- **Use certified EHR technology.** To receive incentive payments, make sure the EHR technology you are using or are considering buying has been certified by an Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Authorized Testing and Certification Body (ATCB). Visit CMS' [Certified EHR Technology page](#) for details.
- **Be a meaningful user.** You have to successfully demonstrate meaningful use for a consecutive 90-day period in your first year of participation (and for a full year in each subsequent years) to receive EHR incentive payments. Visit CMS' [Meaningful Use page](#) to learn about meaningful use objectives and measures.
- **Attest for incentive payments.** To get your EHR incentive payments, you must attest through Medicare's secure website that you are a meaningful user of certified EHR technology.

What Is Attestation?

Under the **Medicare EHR Incentive Program**, EPs, eligible hospitals, and CAHs must prove, or “attest,” that they have met meaningful use criteria. Those who attest in the program’s first year must successfully demonstrate meaningful use for a consecutive 90-day period in their first year of participation. In subsequent years, participants will need to meet meaningful use for a full year before attesting.

Attestation for the **Medicaid EHR Incentive Program** is different from the Medicare Program and takes place at the state level. Visit the [CMS EHR Incentive Programs website](#) for information on attestation for the Medicaid Program.

Preparing for Medicare EHR Incentive Program Attestation

Providers can visit the CMS EHR Incentive Programs registration webpage to register for the Medicare program. Participants who have not previously registered can complete the registration and attestation process at the same time. Also, EPs and eligible hospitals should be sure to review the Attestation User Guides, which provide step-by-step instructions for login and completing attestation.

Before submitting their attestation, participants can enter information in the [Meaningful Use Attestation Calculator](#) to receive preliminary information on whether they should be able to meet all of

the necessary core and menu measures and can successfully demonstrate meaningful use and qualify for an EHR incentive payment.

CMS has also developed Attestation Worksheets to help participants compile information on the numerators, denominators, and exclusions for meaningful use and clinical quality measures before beginning the attestation process.

How to Attest for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program

Medicare EPs, eligible hospitals, and CAHs will have to demonstrate meaningful use through the CMS' web-based [Registration and Attestation System](#) for the 2011 program year. In the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System, providers will answer yes or no, or fill in numerators and denominators, for the meaningful use objectives and clinical quality measures; indicate if they qualify for exclusions to specific objectives; and legally *attest* that they have successfully demonstrated meaningful use.

A complete EHR system will provide a report of the numerators, denominators, and other information. Providers will need to enter that data into CMS' online attestation system. EPs and eligible hospitals will immediately see a summary of their attestation, and whether or not it was successful after they submit their results. Providers will qualify for a Medicare EHR incentive payment upon completing a **successful** online submission through the attestation system and meeting other program requirements.

For More Information

For more information and resources on the CMS EHR Incentive Programs, please visit <https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/>.

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