CAH Method II Physician Participation in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program
Fact Sheet
January 2013

CAH II Physicians Now Eligible for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program
Physicians who assign their reimbursement and billing to a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) under Method II (CAH IIs) are now eligible to participate in the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program as eligible professionals (EPs).

In order for CAH II physicians to participate, CMS is implementing system changes to capture their National Provider Identifier (NPI) and line-of-service payment information. This ensures their claims are tied to the specific services rendered.

Incentive Payments Begin in 2014
CAH II physicians can begin participation in calendar year (CY) 2013. However, due to the time required to implement the system changes, they will not be able to submit attestations until January 2014.

CAH II physicians will need to register and attest to demonstrating meaningful use of certified EHR technology in order to receive their incentive payment. All EPs, including CAH II physicians, in their first year of participation must start by demonstrating Stage 1 of meaningful use. The stages of meaningful use progress as the program continues.

CAH II physicians who begin participation in CY 2013 will be eligible to earn a maximum Medicare EHR incentive payment of $39,000.

Payment Adjustments
Like all other EPs and eligible hospitals, physicians who assign their billing to CAH Method II are subject by law to payment adjustments should they fail to demonstrate meaningful use on an annual basis, beginning in 2015.

Resources and Additional Information
For more information, visit the EHR Incentive Programs website. CMS has also developed several resources to help EPs participate in the EHR Incentive Programs, including:

- Introduction to the Medicare EHR Incentive Program for Eligible Professionals—Helps EPs navigate the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs by providing a step-by-step overview of how to participate.
- Stage 1 Specification Sheets for EPs—Explain the criteria for each core and menu measure in Stage 1 of meaningful use.
- EHR Incentive Programs Listserv—Provides the latest program updates, including information about program milestones, new materials, and upcoming conferences at events.

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