

## **Maryland State Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program**

### **Who Qualifies for the Incentives?**

1. Incentives are available to hospital owned and non-hospital owned primary care practices in Maryland who adopt an EHR that is certified by an Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) - Authorized Testing and Certification Body.
2. Primary care practices include family, general, geriatric, internal medicine, pediatric, or gynecologic practices. Primary care practices can be led by a nurse practitioner providing health care services in family practice, general practice, geriatric, internal medicine, pediatric medicine, or gynecologic practice.
3. In order to qualify for the incentive, the primary care practice must also demonstrate that the practice has either:
  - a. Attested to the current Meaningful Use requirements under the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program; **OR**
  - b. Participates in any MHCC-approved patient centered medical home (PCMH) program and has achieved recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for meeting NCQA's 2011 or later standards for at least level two PCMH recognition

### **What Incentive is Available?**

1. The incentive is a one-time cash incentive, or an incentive of equivalent value agreed upon by the primary care practice and payor. Incentives of equivalent value include: specific services; lump sum payments; gain-sharing arrangements; rewards for quality and efficiency; in-kind payments; or other items or services that can be assigned a specific monetary value. Practices are eligible to receive up to \$15,000 per practice per payor.
2. The incentive is calculated at \$25 for each patient who is a Maryland resident and enrolled in a fully insured health benefits plan assigned by the payor to a provider within the primary care practice at the time a practice makes a request for the incentive payment.
  - a. In cases where the payor does not assign patients to a provider, the fully-insured patients enrolled with that payor who is a Maryland resident and has been treated by the practice in the last 24 months can be included in the incentive calculation.
  - b. Payors may exclude patients from the incentive calculation who are enrolled in a self-insured health plan at the time of the payment request or who were previously included in another primary care practice's EHR adoption incentive calculation.
  - c. Please contact the payor for details regarding its calculation and determination process.

### **How do Practices Request the Incentive?**

In order to request the incentive, eligible practices can submit the State-Regulated EHR Adoption Incentive Payment Request Form (payment request), including required documentation, to each payor with which it does business.

**Maryland State Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program,  
continued**

1. Payors required to participate include:
  - a. Aetna
  - b. CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
  - c. Cigna HealthCare Mid-Atlantic
  - d. Coventry Health Care
  - e. Kaiser Permanente
  - f. United Healthcare, Mid-Atlantic Region.
2. The application may be submitted no later than **December 31, 2018**.
3. To access the enterable payment request form, click on the link below:  
[http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit\\_ehr/documents/EHR\\_Adoption\\_Incentive\\_Payment\\_Request\\_EXT\\_20161107.pdf](http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit_ehr/documents/EHR_Adoption_Incentive_Payment_Request_EXT_20161107.pdf)

**What Happens after I Request an Incentive?**

1. The payor may request additional information as necessary to determine the validity of a payment request.
2. Payors will issue a payment request acknowledgement letter no later than **45 days** after receiving a complete payment request.
3. Payors will pay in full the adoption incentive within **75 days** of receiving a complete payment request.
4. Additionally, the payor will provide written notification to the primary care practice regarding:
  - a. The amount of the EHR adoption incentive awarded
  - b. The method of distribution of the EHR adoption incentive
  - c. The time period over which the incentive will be distributed.
5. A practice may request an accounting of its EHR adoption incentive, including the names of each patient included in the EHR adoption incentive calculation. The payor must provide the requested accounting to the primary care practice in a timely manner.
6. A primary care practice that provided an attestation to meaningful use must give written notice within 90 days to each payor that awarded an EHR adoption incentive to the practice under the following circumstances in the event that the CMS, Medicaid, or its designated entity:
  - a. Conducted a prepayment or post-payment audit of compliance with the participation requirements of the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program regarding the physician or nurse practitioner identified by the primary care practice as part of its EHR adoption incentive request; and
  - b. Determined that the physician or nurse practitioner had not met the requirements under the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.
7. Payors may request reimbursement of the incentive payments made under this incentive program to the primary care practice in the event that a notice is provided by the primary care practice.