

News: For Immediate Release
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State-Regulated Payor Electronic Health Records Incentive Program

BALTIMORE, June 18, 2015 – MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, successfully lobbied the State to create the State-Regulated Payor electronic health record (EHR) Incentive Program (State incentive program), which provides additional financial incentives to primary care practices above the federal Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive program (federal incentive program). The State incentive program was developed by the Maryland Health Care Commission (Commission) in collaboration with stakeholders and has been in place since October 2011.

The State incentive is a one-time cash incentive calculated at \$25 for each patient who is a Maryland resident and enrolled in a fully-insured health benefits plan at a primary care practice. These primary care practices may be eligible for up to \$15,000 from State-regulated insurance companies if the practices meet certain requirements. As of March 2015, the State incentive program has provided a total of about \$8.3M in incentive payments to primary care practices in Maryland.

Ben Steffen, Executive Director of the Commission, said, “The Commission is committed to advancing the use of health information technology statewide, and EHRs are an essential component of health IT infrastructure. It is important that ambulatory practices adopt EHR technology to ensure critical information is available about the patient at the time and place of care. Widespread adoption and use of EHRs improves patient safety, reduces duplication of medical services, and alerts physicians that tests or preventative services are due.”

Gene M. Ransom, CEO of MedChi, stated, “MedChi plans to work with the Commission, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients to expand the adoption and use of EHRs. MedChi also plans to conduct outreach to physicians to increase their awareness of State and federal incentives that exist for implementing EHRs.” Staff at MedChi are available to provide assistance to any physicians who may have questions about the incentives; call 410-539-0872 ext. 3324.

For more information, visit our website at www.medchi.org.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.