**Siciliano, Lorraine**

To All Vermont Medicaid EHR Incentive Program participants:

The Vermont Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program (EHRIP) Team has added new content and reference links to our website: http://hcr.vermont.gov/hit/ehrip

Be sure to bookmark the website and visit regularly for news on the latest program developments. Recently added:

**REVIEW THE NEW FINAL RULE TO DETERMINE YOUR CEHRT PARTICIPATION OPTIONS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014**

CMS has announced the finalized new rule extending CEHRT flexibility to providers participating in the EHR Incentive Program. For Program Year 2014, providers may now use:

1) EHRs that have been certified under the 2011 Edition,

2) A combination of the 2011 and 2014 Editions, or

3) The 2014 Edition for 2014 participation.

In the coming weeks and months, the Vermont Medicaid EHRIP Team will work on updating the MAPIR attestation environment to accommodate this new flexibility. As it will take some time to incorporate the rule changes into the MAPIR programming, it is likely that providers wishing to attest with the new CEHRT flexibility options will not be able to submit their applications until Spring 2015. We will keep our program participants updated on the timeline as work proceeds. In the meantime, providers who have already implemented 2014 CEHRT do NOT need to wait for MAPIR upgrades to proceed with a Program Year 2014 EHRIP application. Stay tuned for updates and more detailed guidance!

**NEW VERMONT MEDICAID EHRIP TEAM MEMBERS**

We have had two recent additions to the VT Medicaid EHRIP Team. Casey O'Hara joined us in mid-July as the new co-administrator of the program. He comes to us from the Blueprint for Health Unit, where he was engaged in marketing, IT, web development and database management. Richard Terricciano has joined the Department of Vermont Health Access as our new Associate State HIT Coordinator. He will be working with the EHRIP Team as well as with other Health IT reform efforts across the Department. Welcome to Casey and Richard!

**PATIENT VOLUME SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

If you are asked to provide a patient volume report to support your patient volume attestation, we have a guideline and template to submit the requested data:

http://hcr.vermont.gov/sites/hcr/files/pdfs/EHRIP/PtVolDataToolTemplateEHRIP_2014_01_15.xls

Consider using this guideline and patient volume template when assembling your data, and uploading it along with your attestation. It is the required format for the EHRIP Team to receive the documentation of patient volume, and the tool is an efficient means of providing the necessary information in the event of a post-payment audit.

## PROGRAM SWITCH

As part of the EHR Incentive program regulations, Eligible Professionals (EPs) have the option to participate with either the Medicare or the Medicaid EHR Incentive program. After a payment (or multiple payments) has been received by the EP for either one of these programs, the EP has the opportunity to do a '**one-time** switch' to the other program. For example, if an EP received two EHR Incentive payments from Medicare and can now meet the Medicaid EHR Incentive program requirements, the EP can switch to Medicaid. Once the switch has been made **and the EP has received a payment** from the other program (Medicaid in the example), then the EP is no longer able to switch back to the original program (Medicare in the example). One thing to keep in mind is that an EP can only receive one payment per program year. **IMPORTANT**: If you have an EP that is thinking of switching programs, you **MUST** make the switch **BEFORE 2015**.

Please do not hesitate to contact the EHRIP Team with any questions: ehrip-support@vitl.net

Thank you,
Lorraine

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