

From: Siciliano, Lorraine
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 8:31 AM
To: Siciliano, Lorraine
Subject: VT Medicaid EHRIP Updates: CMS Website Updates; Highlights from the CMS 2015-2017 Modification Proposed Rule

To All Vermont Medicaid EHR Incentive Program participants:

CMS WEBSITE UPDATES

As CMS prepares to publish the Final Rules that will govern the EHRIP from Program Year 2015 through Stage 3, they have updated and reorganized the [CMS EHRIP website](#). In addition to having a designated page with links to past Program Year requirements and resources, the website will have discrete webpages for each Program Year going forward. The Vermont Medicaid EHRIP website will be updated accordingly, to ensure the links to the CMS information remain accurate.

The screenshot shows the CMS.gov website for EHR Incentive Programs. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, About CMS, Newsroom, FAQs, and Archive. Below this is a search bar and a row of category buttons: Medicare, Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination, Private Insurance, Innovation Center, Regulations & Guidance, and Research, Statistics & Data & Systems. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Regulations and Guidance > EHR Incentive Programs > EHR Incentive Programs.

The left sidebar contains a list of links, with several circled in red: [EHR Incentive Programs](#), [2015 Program Requirements](#), [2016 Program Requirements](#), [2017 Program Requirements](#), [Educational Resources](#), [Payment Adjustments & Hardship Information](#), [Registration & Attestation](#), [Data and Program Reports](#), [Participating in EHR?](#), [Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Basics](#), [Clinical Quality Measures Basics](#), [2015 CQM Reporting Options](#), [Certified EHR Technology](#), [Eligible Hospital Information](#), [Medicaid State Information](#), [Medicare Advantage](#), [CMS EHR Incentive Programs Listserv](#), [Attestation Batch Upload Page](#), [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#), and [Requirements for Previous Years](#).

The main content area features the EHR Incentive Program logo, which consists of a stylized 'EHR' in blue and green with a swoosh underneath. Below the logo is the heading: **The Official Web Site for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Programs**. The text below reads: "The Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Care Record (EHR) Incentive Programs provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology. Important Announcements and Dates for the EHR Incentive Programs: **More Information Coming Soon** The EHR Incentive Programs website will be updated to include new information and resources reflecting the latest requirements for participation. [Subscribe](#) to the EHR listserv to stay informed of additional announcements on EHR website changes."

Below this text is a section titled **Choosing a Program: Medicare or Medicaid?** with the text: "There are two EHR Incentive Programs. CMS oversees the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, and the agencies manage the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. The two programs are similar, but there are some differences between them."

At the bottom of the page, there is a table with two columns: **Medicare EHR Incentive Program** and **Medicaid EHR Incentive Program**.

CMS 2015-2017 MODIFICATION RULE PROPOSED CHANGES

Of the two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking that are in their final review, the 2015-2017 Modification Rule is going to have the first impact on our program. Here are a few highlights of the changes proposed:

- Eligible Professionals (EPs) and Eligible Hospitals (EHs) completing an application for Meaningful Use would submit data for a 90 day Meaningful Use (MU) reporting period.
- EHs would move to a calendar year for MU reporting to align with EPs.
- Stage 1 EPs will move from 13 Core Objectives and 5 Menu Objectives to 9 Core Objectives with 2 Public Health options.
- Stage 1 EHs will move from 11 Core Objectives and 5 Menu Objectives to 8 Core Objectives with 3 Public Health options.
- Stage 2 EPs will move from 17 Core Objectives and 3 Menu Objectives to 9 Core Objectives with 2 Public Health options.
- Stage 2 EHs will move from 16 Core Objectives and 3 Menu Objectives to 8 Core Objectives with 3 Public Health options.
- 2014 Certified EHR Systems will be used for program years 2015 – 2017.
- Change the threshold from the Stage 2 Objective for Patient Electronic Access measure 2 from ‘5 percent’ to ‘equal or greater than 1’
- Change the threshold from Stage 2 Objective Secure Electronic Messaging from being a percentage based measure to a ‘yes-no’ measure stating the functionality fully enabled
- Change all public health reporting objectives into one objective with measure options following the structure of the Stage 3 Public Health Reporting Objective
- EPs and EHs will have more options to take exclusions, especially those starting Stage 1.
- EP MU Stage 1 objectives that have been **Menu options** will now be **required**:
 - Perform Medication Reconciliation
 - Patient Specific Educational Resources
 - Public Health Reporting Objectives
- EH MU Stage 2 objective that had been a **Menu option** will now be **required**:
 - EHs and CAHs only: Electronic Prescribing

The Vermont EHRIP Team will post an announcement when the proposed rule is final and published.

REMINDER – PROGRAM YEAR 2015 10/3/15 MEANINGFUL USE REPORTING PERIOD START DATE

If you are planning to attest to Meaningful Use for Program Year 2015, October 3rd, 2015 is the last day to **begin** tracking your Meaningful Use 90-Day reporting period in 2015. In other words, when monitoring providers’ thresholds for meeting MU measures, 10/3/15 is the very latest date in 2015 that you can start a 90-day EHR reporting period and have it fall entirely within the calendar year of 2015.

SEPTEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, and be sure to check out the [Vermont Medicaid EHRIP website](#) for important information and the latest updates about the program.

See you at the [VITL Summit!](#)

Lorraine

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