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Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 3:11 PM

To: Siciliano, Lorraine

Subject: VT Medicaid EHRIP Updates: Official Publication of Final Rule Clarifies Effective Date; CMS Posts Webinar; Payment Adjustment Guidance

To All Vermont Medicaid EHR Incentive Program participants:

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MU3 AND MODIFIED-MU2 2015-2017 RULE: CLARIFICATION ON EFFECTIVE DATE

CMS has officially published the final rule for MU Stage 3 and Modified-MU Stage 2 for 2015-2017 in the Federal Register with an effective date of **December 15, 2015**. As of this effective date, **Meaningful Use Stage 1 will no longer be an attestation option**. All providers attesting in Program Year 2015 will be meeting the objectives defined in **Modified Meaningful Use Stage 2**. For more information about changes to program participation requirements, see our [Program Year 2015](#) guidance page.

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

CMS POSTS WEBINAR SLIDE DECK AND RECORDING

With the introduction of the new final rule, CMS held a webinar on 10/8/15 for providers and industry members to give them an overview of how to prepare for EHRIP participation in 2015. Given the high interest level, the webinar filled quickly, and so CMS has now posted the [slide deck](#) and the [webinar recording](#) for all to access at their [website](#).

EHRIP PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS, HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS AND RECONSIDERATIONS

In the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Congress mandated that payment adjustments be applied to Medicare Eligible Professionals Eligible hospitals that are not meaningful users of CEHRT under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program.

Providers eligible to participate in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program must demonstrate meaningful use in either the Medicare EHR Incentive Program **or** in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program (or be granted a hardship exception) to avoid a payment adjustment.

Medicare hospitals began to receive payment adjustments on October 1, 2014, and Medicare eligible professionals began to receive payment adjustments on January 1, 2015.

Note: Medicaid providers who are only eligible to participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program are not subject to these payment adjustments.

2016 Payment Adjustments

Providers receive the Medicare payment adjustment amount that is tied to a specific calendar/fiscal year. An EP or EH that did not successfully demonstrate meaningful use for an applicable EHR reporting period in 2014 will receive a payment adjustment in calendar/fiscal year 2016.

Though the deadlines for 2016 hardship exception applications have passed, more information about the 2017 applications for avoiding the 2017 payment adjustment will be available in early 2016.

2016 Reconsiderations

For EPs, the submission period for 2016 reconsiderations will be January 1, 2016 – February 29, 2016. CMS will announce with the application is available.

To learn more, visit the [Payment Adjustments & Hardship Exceptions](#) page on the CMS EHR Incentive Programs website.

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

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