

From: Siciliano, Lorraine

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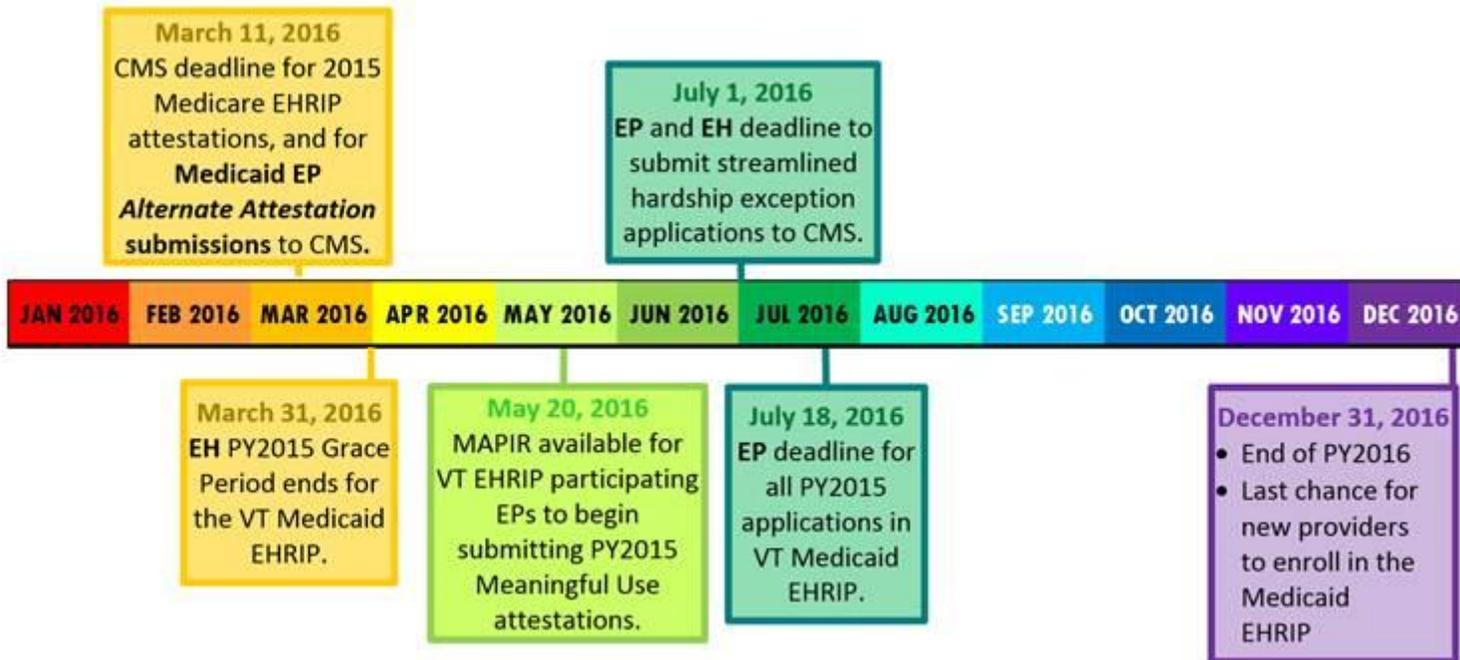
To: Siciliano, Lorraine <Lorraine.Siciliano@vermont.gov>

Subject: VT Medicaid EHRIP Updates: Important Actions to take immediately for Alternate Attestations; EHs Attest by 3/31/16; MAPIR upgrade on track for 5/20/16; CMS/ONC Announce Expanded Funding Opp

To All Vermont Medicaid EHR Incentive Program participants:

IMPORTANT DATES

Click the image below to open a document with details about each date and deadline event.



If you plan to submit an Alternate Attestation, please email the provider's name and NPI to ehrip-support@vitl.net immediately so that the VT EHRIP Team can facilitate the necessary eligibility confirmation between CMS and the Vermont Medicaid system.

BEGIN NOW TO MEET THE MARCH 11, 2016 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ALTERNATE ATTESTATIONS

- If you are, or attest on behalf of, an EP who has participated (or plans to participate) in the Medicaid EHRIP, but you do not believe will be able to meet the required Medicaid patient volume for Program Year 2015, you can complete an Alternate Attestation in order to avoid the Medicare payment adjustments in 2017.
- **First-time attesters only** (providers who have NEVER received payment for a previous Program Year EHR Incentive Program attestation) will avoid **2016** Medicare Payment Adjustments as well as 2017 Payment Adjustments if they attest by 3/11/16.
- If the provider is then determined to be able to meet the Medicaid patient volume by July 18, 2016 (the Vermont Medicaid EHRIP deadline for PY2015 applications), you can still submit the Meaningful Use application for by July 18, 2016 to be considered for a payment.

- **Do not wait until Friday the 11th to begin the attestation process**, because you will miss the deadline to submit. It can take 24-48 hours for the CMS system file transfer process with Vermont Medicaid to confirm a provider's eligibility to proceed with an Alternate Attestation. If you plan to submit an Alternate Attestation, contact the VT EHRIP Team and proceed immediately at the CMS site.
- Doing an Alternate Attestation does not **require** modifying/updating any registration information at the CMS site, but you will have the option to update your information.
- **DO NOT SWITCH INCENTIVE PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO DO THE ALTERNATE ATTESTATION.**
- Please see the guidance to help step through the screens encountered at the CMS Alternate Attestation site:
[EP Guidance Alternate Attestation](#)
- Here is the link to the Alternate Attestation application: [Alternate Attestation at CMS](#).

MARCH 31ST, 2016 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ELIGIBLE HOSPITAL PY2015 ATTESTATIONS IN MAPIR

All EH and CAH applications for a Program Year 2015 Vermont Medicaid EHRIP payment must be submitted in MAPIR by midnight, March 31st, 2016. A Vermont Medicaid EHRIP application for all dually-eligible hospitals is NOT automatic: once the hospital application is submitted to the **Medicare** EHR Incentive Program, the accepted MU criteria is available to proceed with a MAPIR attestation for the Vermont Medicaid EHRIP. Please contact the VT Medicaid EHRIP Team if you experience any problems proceeding with a hospital attestation for Program Year 2015.

MAY 20TH, 2016 PLANNED DATE FOR EPs TO START ATTESTING TO MU FOR PY2015 IN MAPIR

Plans are still on track to deploy the MAPIR upgrade in time for EPs to start attesting to Meaningful Use for Program Year 2015 on May 20th, 2016. The MAPIR Collaborative has been working hard to capture the latest guidance changes from CMS and will be testing the system upgrades over the next several weeks. The Vermont EHRIP Team will be holding webinars to help preparers and providers understand the new screens and application flow. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements for webinar dates and times.

EXPANDED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE PROVIDERS FOR HIE, EHR ADOPTION AND INTEROPERABILITY

CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT announced a State Medicaid Director's letter that updates the guidance for Medicaid HITECH funding for Health Information Exchange that more aggressively supports Meaningful Use Stage 2 and Stage 3. This State Medicaid Director's letter now allows states to use the 90 percent Federal Financial Participation to support both on-boarding and HIE architecture for Medicaid providers that an Eligible Hospital or Eligible Professional needs to connect to for purposes of demonstrating Meaningful Use. Now Medicaid provider types such as behavioral health providers, substance abuse treatment providers, long term care providers, correctional health providers, pharmacies, laboratories, emergency service providers, and community-based Medicaid providers can be supported for Health Information Exchange or other interoperable systems, so long as such connections help an Eligible Provider demonstrate Meaningful Use. See the full State Medicaid Director's letter here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/SMD16003.pdf>

Don't hesitate to [contact the Vermont Medicaid EHRIP Team](#) with any questions. Be sure to check out the [Vermont Medicaid EHRIP website](#) for important information, and you can also follow us on [Twitter](#) for the latest updates about the program.

Lorraine Siciliano
Medicaid Operations Administrator
Electronic Health Records Incentive Program
Department of Vermont Health Access
(802) 363-4652

<http://healthdata.vermont.gov/ehrip>

