

# MEDICAID EHR INCENTIVES PROGRAM

## Eligible Hospitals

### Program Overview

The Medicaid EHR Incentives Program will provide incentive payments to Eligible Hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate Meaningful Use of certified EHR technology.

### Eligible Medicaid Hospitals

Hospitals eligible to participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentives Program include Acute Care and Critical Access Hospitals as well as Children's Hospitals. Eligible Hospitals must meet certain Medicaid patient volume requirements and fall within a select range of CMS Certification Numbers. Eligible Hospitals may receive payments from both the Medicare and Medicaid Incentive Programs. The exceptions are Children's Hospitals, which will only qualify for Medicaid incentive payments. Visit this CMS link for more information on eligibility for hospitals:

[http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/15\\_Eligibility.asp#BOOKMARK2](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/15_Eligibility.asp#BOOKMARK2)

### Adopt/Implement/Upgrade & Meaningful Use of Certified EHR Technology

Eligible Hospital Participants must adopt (acquire and install), implement (commence usage of), upgrade (expand functionality with new version, etc.) **or** demonstrate Meaningful Use of certified EHR technology during year one of their program participation. In the two remaining years of their program participation, Eligible Hospitals must demonstrate meaningful use (i.e., how the technology moves beyond being a digital medical chart into being a valuable tool to transform health care service delivery and improve health outcomes). The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs require the use of EHR technology certified through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). For more information, visit the ONC website at <http://onc-chpl.force.com/ehrcert>.

### Incentives for Eligible Medicaid Hospitals

By meeting all program requirements, Eligible Hospitals may earn an incentive payment based on a formula that includes: an annual EHR base amount; a per-discharge amount and a transition factor for each year; a Medicaid share based on inpatient, non-charity care days; and an aggregate EHR payment amount. The aggregate EHR payment estimate, when approved by DCH, is the total incentive payment that will be paid out during three (3) years of participation. To assist in estimating the incentive payment, DCH is preparing a Medicaid Hospital Patient Volume and Incentive Payment Calculator that will soon be posted to the DCH website.

### Technical Assistance

For small and rural hospitals, the Georgia Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (GA-HITREC) provides education, outreach and technical assistance in selecting, implementing and using health information technology to improve the quality and value of health care. For more information about GA-HITREC, please visit [www.ga-hitrec.org](http://www.ga-hitrec.org) or call toll free: 877-658-1990.

### Getting Started

**Step One: Register with CMS Now.** Eligible Hospitals may register now on the CMS Registration and Attestation System website at <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action>. Eligible Hospitals will be placed into a "Pending State Validation" status until the Georgia Medicaid EHR Incentive Program opens for registration in summer 2011.

**Step Two: Register with the State of Georgia – Available Summer 2011.** When Georgia's program is open for registration, the Eligible Hospital will be notified to complete the registration process and confirm Medicaid eligibility on the Georgia Medicaid Web Portal website. Providers will use their current GA Medicaid web portal ID and Password to access registration for incentive payments. The Georgia Medicaid Web Portal can be accessed at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/default.aspx>

### For More Information

To learn more about the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, visit the CMS website at [www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/) and the DCH website at [www.dch.georgia.gov/ehr](http://www.dch.georgia.gov/ehr).