

Provider Bulletin

No. 15-55

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TO: Nebraska Medicaid Providers

FROM: Calder Lynch, Director *CL*
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

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RE: Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program Changes

Please share this information with administrative, billing, professional, and clinical staff

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a final rule which changes provisions for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Some key changes in the 2015-2017 Modified Stage 2 final rule include:

- The core and menu measures have been consolidated into ten (10) objectives for eligible professionals, including one consolidated public health reporting objective. These objectives are on the “Eligible Professionals (EP) Tip Sheet” available at https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage3_EP.pdf.
- The core and menu measures have been consolidated into nine (9) objectives for eligible hospitals, including one consolidated public health reporting objective. These objectives are listed on the “Eligible Hospitals (EH) Tip Sheets” available at https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage3_EH.pdf
- The EHR reporting period has been aligned with the calendar year for all providers starting with calendar year 2015. This is a change from the federal fiscal year reporting for eligible hospitals.
- The EHR reporting period has changed to a consecutive 90-day period in calendar year 2015 for eligible professionals to accommodate modifications to meaningful use. Eligible hospitals can select a consecutive 90-day period between 10/1/2014-12/31/2015.
- Stage 2 patient engagement objectives that required patient action have been modified.
- Redundant and duplicative measures and measures that have consistently been met in previous versions have been removed.

A complete overview of the 2015-2017 Modified Stage 2 final rule is available at https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage3Overview2015_2017.pdf

The last calendar year for eligible professionals to begin participation in the Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program is 2016. This is for providers who have not yet received at least one incentive payment.

Attestations for calendar year 2015 can be submitted at this website nebraskaEHRincentives.com starting on January 4, 2016 through February 29, 2016. Meaningful use attestations for calendar year 2015 will **not** be accepted before or after this time period.

The new rules may allow for more providers to achieve meaningful use. We encourage providers who may be interested in the Medicaid EHR Incentives to go to this website http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/med_ehr.aspx for further details on the program.

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please email DHHS.EHRincentives@nebraska.gov