



ISSUE DATE May 13, 2011	EFFECTIVE DATE June 6, 2011	NUMBER 08-11-07, 09-11-06, 27-11-03, 31-11-06, 33-11-05
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SUBJECT: Medical Assistance Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program Application Process for Eligible Professionals (EPs)	BY  Izanne Leonard-Haak, Acting Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform healthcare professionals about the application process to register for and participate in the Medical Assistance (MA) Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program. This bulletin also discusses how professionals can apply for incentive payments and presents information and links to resources and tools to help explain the application process.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to physicians, dentists, pediatricians, certified registered nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives enrolled in the Pennsylvania MA Program. While physician assistants are not eligible to directly receive payment from the Pennsylvania MA program for services provided to MA recipients, physician assistants who practice in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC) that is “so led” by a physician assistant are eligible to participate in Pennsylvania’s MA EHR Incentive Program.

BACKGROUND:

On January 25, 2011, the MA Program issued MA Bulletin 08-11-02, titled “Medical Assistance Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program for Eligible Professionals (EP),” which announced the Department of Public Welfare’s (Department) intent to implement and administer a MA EHR Incentive Program.

The goal of the MA EHR Incentive Program is to promote the adoption and meaningful use of certified EHRs within the healthcare system. The Department envisions that adopting EHRs will lead to higher quality and better coordinated care resulting in improved patient outcomes and patient safety while also improving the efficiency of the healthcare system.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Matt McGeorge, RA-mahealthit@state.pa.us

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

Participation in the MA EHR Incentive Program is voluntary. Professionals are not required to participate in the MA EHR Incentive Program.

In order to qualify for the Medical Assistance EHR Incentive Program, an EP must meet all federal and Department requirements, and must be enrolled and participating in the MA Program without any sanctions or exclusions. Professionals who are not enrolled will need to enroll in the Pennsylvania MA Program and obtain an individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) number prior to applying for the EHR Incentive Program. If a professional wishes to assign their payments, the organization to which they wish to assign payments must also be enrolled with the MA Program in order to receive incentive payments.

Between January and April 2011, the Department held numerous webinars and education sessions with stakeholders to help professionals learn about the program. Information presented in the webinars and education sessions, along with additional resources to assist professionals who are interested in the MA EHR Incentive Program, is available at the following website: <http://www.PAMAHealthIT.org>.

On June 6, 2011, the Department will activate the Medical Assistance Provider Incentive Repository (MAPIR), which is the Department's web-based application and attestation system for the MA EHR Incentive Program and the interface with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The CMS system is named the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System (also known as the R&A).

DISCUSSION:

Professional Application and Registration Processes

The application process includes the following steps:

- Applicants must register at the R&A website. Applicants will need to provide information such as the individual and payee NPI and Tax Identification Number (TIN); program option of Medicare or MA (referred to as Medicaid in the R&A), and if MA, state in which you are applying; EHR Certification Number; and email contact information.
- Once successfully registered with the R&A, eligible applicants will receive a notification that they can register in MAPIR, which is accessed through the PROMISe™ provider portal. This may take up to two days following successful registration with the R&A. MAPIR is the Department's web-based system that will track and act as a repository for information related to applications, attestations, payments, appeals, oversight functions, and interface with the R&A.
- Applicants will use their PROMISe™ logon ID and password to log into the PROMISe™ provider portal. If they are an eligible professional type then a MAPIR application link will be displayed. By clicking on the link, the MAPIR application will search for a registration record received from the R&A. Once a match is found, the application process can begin. If an application is not found within three days after an applicant

registered with the R&A, the applicant should contact the Department for assistance either by email at RA-mahealthit@state.pa.us or by phone at (855) 259-2114.

- Applicants will need to verify the information displayed in MAPIR, enter additional required data elements and make attestations about program requirements and the accuracy of data elements entered in MAPIR. For example, applicants will need to demonstrate they meet Medicaid patient volume thresholds, that they are adopting, implementing, or upgrading federally-certified EHR systems, and that they meet all other federal program requirements.
- Applicants may use the patient volume calculator on the Department's website (www.PAMAHealthIT.org) prior to entering MAPIR to estimate eligibility based on patient volume for a continuous 90-day period within the previous calendar year.
- The Department will use its own information (such as MA claims data) and information in MAPIR to review applications and make approval decisions. The Department will inform all applicants whether they have been approved or denied. All approvals and denials are based on federal rules governing the EHR Incentive Program.
- Payments will be issued via the standard PROMISe™ payment system that runs once a week. Applicants will see approved payments on their remittance advices and their annual 1099s.
- It is possible the Department may need to contact applicants during the application process before a decision can be made to approve or deny an application. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department if they have questions about the process.
- Applicants have appeal rights available to them; for example, if an applicant is denied an EHR incentive payment. The Department will convey information on the appeals process to all applicants denied. Appeals will be processed by the Department's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals.
- Applicants are permitted to reassign their incentive payments to their employer or to an entity with which they have a contractual arrangement allowing the employer or entity to bill and receive payment for the applicant's covered professional services.
- Physician assistants practicing in an FQHC/RHC "so led" by a physician assistant who think they may be eligible for MA EHR Incentive Program payments should contact the Department by email at RA-mahealthit@state.pa.us or by phone at (855) 259-2114.

Applicants can take a number of steps to expedite the processing of their applications:

- Applicants must provide a valid email address during the CMS registration process so that the Department can inform them, by email, that their registration has been received from CMS and that they can begin the MAPIR application process.

- Applicants must obtain a logon ID and password for the PROMISe™ provider portal if they do not already have one. The following link contains information for registration: <https://promise.dpw.state.pa.us>
- The NPI and TIN provided to CMS must match the NPI and Payee TIN information within the PROMISe™ system. This combination should be the same NPI/TIN combination that is used for MA claim payment purposes.

PROCEDURES:

Please visit the Department's website at www.PAMAHealthIT.org for additional information such as: the patient volume calculator, webinar materials, and frequently asked questions.

The Department's MA EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professional Provider Manual (available at <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/medicalassistancehealthinformatiotechnologyinitiative/maprovincincentiverepos/index.htm>) describes the application process and is intended to serve as a resource for professionals to help them successfully complete the application process. The Eligible Professional Provider Manual explains the details of the MA EHR Incentive Program and includes detailed information and links to other resources on the following EHR Incentive Program requirements:

- Eligibility criteria
- Definition of an eligible professional
- Patient volume calculations
- Adopt, implement, and upgrade requirement
- Payment amounts
- Monitoring and oversight
- Information on how to apply for the program via the MAPIR system

You will find the R&A website at:

<https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action>

You will find the PROMISe™ application website at:

<https://promise.dpw.state.pa.us>

Applicants should not hesitate to contact the Department for more assistance with the application process. Applicants can contact the Department by email at RA-mahealthit@state.pa.us or by phone at (855) 259-2114.