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Electronic Health Records Incentive Payments

Louisiana Medicaid operates an electronic health record (EHR) incentive payment program to provide payments to eligible professional practitioners who adopt, implement or upgrade certified EHR technology.

The following professional practitioners may qualify to receive Louisiana Medicaid incentive payments:

1. Physicians;
2. Nurse practitioners;
3. Certified nurse-midwives;
4. Dentists; and
5. Physician assistants directing a federally qualified health center (FQHC) or rural health clinic (RHC).

Eligible providers shall meet the appropriate meaningful use requirements for certified EHR systems as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Payments shall be distributed through a web-based Medicaid EHR incentive payment system.

Qualifying Criteria for Professional Practitioners

Professional practitioners shall qualify for Medicaid incentive payments when:

1. Services are rendered to the required number of beneficiaries based on the Medicaid beneficiary volume threshold; and
2. Meaningful use requirements are met for EHR systems, based on the participation year of the program.

Professional practitioners shall be required to meet the minimum Medicaid beneficiary volume threshold of 30 percent. This threshold shall be calculated as a ratio where the numerator is the total number of Medicaid beneficiary encounters with needy individuals treated in any 90-day period in the previous calendar year and the denominator is all beneficiary encounters over the same period of time.

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Needy individuals shall include the following:

1. Medicaid beneficiaries;
2. Children's Health Insurance Program beneficiaries;
3. Patients furnished uncompensated care by the provider; and
4. Patients furnished services at no cost or on a sliding scale.

During the first year of program participation, the meaningful use requirements for an eligible provider are to adopt, implement, and upgrade a certified EHR system. In subsequent years' participation, providers must meet the meaningful use requirements defined by CMS at the stage that is in place at that time.

Eligible practitioners may receive incentive payments from the Medicaid program or from the Medicare program. Payments cannot be received from both entities simultaneously. After the initial program selection, eligible practitioners shall be allowed to change their selection only once during state fiscal year (SFY) 2012 through SFY 2014.

Medicaid EHR incentive payments shall not be available to hospital-based providers who furnish 90 percent or more of their services in a hospital setting. This includes services furnished on an inpatient or outpatient basis and in an emergency room setting.

Registration

Professional practitioners choosing to participate in the Louisiana Medicaid EHR incentive payment program must first register with CMS, before beginning the Louisiana Medicaid EHR registration using the EHR Incentives link on the Louisiana Medicaid website (See Appendix A for information on how to access this website).

The Louisiana Medicaid website EHR link provides current Medicaid information and additional non-Medicaid links necessary for professional practitioners to fully incorporate the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 related to EHR.

Payments

Incentive payments to eligible practitioners began in SFY 2011 and ended in SFY 2021. The last state fiscal year a Medicaid provider could begin the program was SFY 2016.

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Payments are based on a calendar year and may total up to \$63,750 over six years of participation. A provider would have had to initiate the program by SFY 2016 to receive the maximum total payment amount.

NOTE: Medicaid enrolled pediatricians with more than 20 percent, but less than 30 percent Medicaid beneficiary volume will receive two-thirds of the maximum amount.

EHR incentive payments shall not be available to a hospital-based provider who furnishes 90 percent or more of their services in a hospital setting. This includes services furnished on an inpatient or outpatient basis and in an emergency room setting.

EHR incentive payments are made to eligible professional practitioners based on the information in the filed payment attestation. If the information in the payment attestation matches the payee field and the account number on the Louisiana Medicaid provider enrollment file, payment will be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT). If the information does not match, a paper check will be issued based on the payee information in the filed payment attestation.

The Provider Enrollment file must be maintained with the correct payee name, address and account numbers. Providers are responsible for reporting all changes to the fiscal intermediary's Provider Enrollment Unit (See Appendix A for contact information).