



10 FAQ's about the ARRA and Meaningful Use:

1. How much is the federal government going to reimburse me for using a certified electronic health record?
 - Medicare will reimburse individual providers up to \$44,000 over a 5 year period.
 - Medicaid will reimburse individual providers up to \$63,750 over a 6 year period.

2. Who is eligible for these reimbursements?
 - Medicare defines an “eligible professional” as
 - Doctor of medicine/osteopathy
 - Doctor of dental surgery/medicine
 - Doctor of podiatric medicine
 - Doctor of optometry
 - Chiropractor.
 - Medicaid defines an “eligible professional” as
 - Physicians
 - Dentists
 - Certified nurse midwives
 - Nurse practitioners
 - Physician’s assistants in a FQHC or RCH (that is so led by a physician assistant).

3. When will these ARRA programs start?
 - In a large majority of cases these programs will start January 1st, 2011.

4. How will I get paid from Medicare/Medicaid?
 - All reimbursements will be paid in a single, consolidated, annual incentive payment.
 - Medicare will be paid via CMS
 - Medicaid will be paid from the state Medicaid agency or your designated intermediary (ex: CenCal)



5. When will the check come?

- Each eligible professional will be paid on a rolling basis, meaning as soon as you:
 - Demonstrate meaningful use for the applicable reporting period *which will either be a ninety (90) day period during the first calendar year or the entire calendar year for years two (2) through six (6)*
 - Once your submitted allowable charges for the year reach the threshold for maximum payment (Medicare)

6. How will my reimbursement be calculated?

- Medicare reimbursements will be calculated by multiplying your submitted allowable charges to Medicare by 75% (up to an annual capped amount) (see table in question #10)
- Medicaid reimbursements are flat payments that are intended to cover the “net average allowable” cost of purchasing, implementing and maintaining an electronic health record.
 - The only stipulation for Medicaid reimbursement is that 30% or all your patient encounters MUST be attributable to Medicaid over any continuous ninety (90) day period within the most recent calendar year. (Pediatricians can qualify with only 20% of patient encounters)

7. Will all electronic health records qualify me for the reimbursement?

- Unfortunately not, only electronic health records that are certified by the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) will be eligible for reimbursement.

8. Does owning a “certified” EHR guarantee that I will receive the stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?

- Simply owning a “certified” EHR does not guarantee you a reimbursement from the federal government.
- In order to guarantee that you receive a reimbursement you must be using a “certified” EHR in a “meaningful” way. These two things combined make up the definition of “meaningful use”.



9. What does “Meaningful Use” mean and how do I prove it?

- Meaningful use is really an evaluation of your use (or lack of use) of a certified electronic health record.
- It will be proven through an attestation of a secure mechanism (claims based report, online portal, etc) sighting specific criteria of an electronic health record such as e-prescribing, use of active medication lists, and computerized physician order entry (CPOE).

10. Lastly, how will these reimbursements be distributed over a 5 or 6 year period?

		Adoption Year				
		Medicare	2011	2012	2013	2014
Available Reimbursement Per-Year	2011		\$18,000			
	2012		\$12,000	\$18,000		
	2012		\$8,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	
	2013		\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	
	2014		\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$15,000
	2015			\$2,000	\$4,000	\$12,000
	2016					\$8,000
	Total		\$44,000	\$44,000	\$39,000	\$35,000

		Adoption Year						
		Medicaid	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Available Reimbursement Per-Year	2011		\$21,250					
	2012		\$8,500	\$21,250				
	2012		\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250			
	2013		\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250		
	2014		\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250	
	2015		\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250
	2016			\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
	2017				\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
	2018					\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
	2019						\$8,500	\$8,500
	2020							\$8,500
Total		\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	