



eRECORDS, Inc.'s HITECH Meaningful News is a medium to share the latest news, updates and analysis in the world of ARRA, HITECH Act and "meaningful use". eRECORDS advisors collate, review and assess mountain of data down to the most relevant information so that you can focus your time in delivering the highest quality of healthcare.

eRECORDS Myth Buster - Ongoing look at the HITECH related myths:

Myth #3: "Once I meet meaningful use in 2011, I am set to get all my incentive payments"

This "one and done" attitude is pretty common misunderstanding when I speak to providers and administrators at clinics and practices. Unfortunately, achieving and sustaining meaningful use is not that simple. The truth is for each year of incentive payment, providers not only must re-qualify to receive the incentive payment but also keep up with the increasing requirements (stage 1 in 2011, stage 2 in 2013 and stage 3 in 2015). I have to admit, the federal government did a pretty good job of creating incentive program that is directly tied to usage and utilization of a certified EHR system over time (many years).

When a clinic or a provider decides to take the advantage of the incentive payment program, one must understand and plan for long term road map in achieving and sustain meaningful use in most efficient manner. It is definitely not "one and be done", but with some careful planning and expertise, one can achieve maximum return on investment in this worthwhile endeavor.

Which types of providers actually qualify for EHR incentive payments?

As many of you may know, CMS defined different provider types to be eligible for the EHR incentive payments. They include doctors of medicine or osteopathy along with dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, chiropractors, doctor of optometry, and others. The problem is current meaningful use requirements do not work with all the defined eligible provider types. For example, one of the meaningful use criteria is ePrescribing. Chiropractors, in general, do not prescribe medicine. So the chiropractors, under the current requirements, cannot qualify. Then why were they included as part of the eligible provider type? Many associations including associations for dentists, psychiatry and chiropractors have been trying to get clarifications from CMS. So far, none have been released by CMS. I am hopeful the list of provider types defined by the CMS is not an accident and CMS clarifies the meaningful use requirements to be more relevant and "meaningful" for each type of the provider. If not, we may see frustration and anger from providers who are not being "taken care of". Considering one of the key goals of the HITECH Act is to provide equal healthcare to all patients, it would be ironic that the providers who are serving these patients are not treated equally.

L.A. Care receives approval for Los Angeles area Regional Extension Center (REC) designation

As many of you know, CalHIPSO (www.calhipso.org, formerly known as Cal-Rec) was the first Regional Extension Center to be designated in California. CalHIPSO is responsible for all of California except Los Angeles and Orange Counties. This week, L.A. Care has been designated to be the Regional Extension Center for Los Angeles County. CalOptima's application to be the Orange County's REC has not received the designation. For more details, click on the following link.

<http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2010/4/8/los-angeles-group-nabs-stimulus-grant-to-set-up-regional-health-it-hub.aspx>

NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) launches Health IT Standards and Testing web site.

This site provides information about the key health IT testing initiatives underway including testing of EHR for meaningful use. NIST is responsible for creating EHR testing methodologies and tools under the permanent EHR certification and testing program and monitoring the laboratories accredited to provide EHR testing. For any EHR vendor, it is important that the vendor monitor this site on a regular basis. Click on the following link to see NIST's website for Health IT Standards and Testing. <http://healthcare.nist.gov/>

Obama to Nominate quality expert Donald Berwick to lead CMS

It is expected that President Obama soon will nominate health care quality expert Donald Berwick to serve as CMS administrator. Acting CMS administrator Charlene Frizzera will most likely stay on as the COO of CMS. CMS administrator is responsible Medicare and Medicaid programs including the EHR meaningful use incentive payments as defined in the HITECH Act. For more details, click on the following link. <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2010/3/30/obama-to-nominate-quality-expert-donald-berwick-to-lead-cms.aspx>

The Certification Commission for Health IT (CCHIT) has named Dr. Karen Bell as its chair

Ms. Bell, a former executive in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and an expert in improving health quality, has been named CCHIT's chair, effective April 26. With previous ONC ties and experiences, I think the selection of Ms. Bell is wise for CCHIT. For more details, click on the following link. <http://www.govhealthit.com/newsitem.aspx?nid=73500>

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Sincerely yours,

eRECORDS HITECH Advisors

About eRECORDS, Inc.

eRECORDS was founded with the singular focus to help community clinics and practices deliver higher and consistent quality of care through connected healthcare technologies, clinical quality measures and improved processes. eRECORDS is a trusted expert and partner in achieving meaningful use with integrity, value and ROI driven products and services.

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