

## How Do I Qualify for Incentive Payments?

Please see the tables on the previous page that summarize which hospitals are eligible for EHR incentives. Below is a list of requirements that eligible hospitals must meet in order to receive incentives as well as a list of reporting requirements.

### Eligible Hospitals must:

- Meet 14 core requirements + 5 menu requirements
- Eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals must report all 15 Clinical Quality Measures (COMs)

### Reporting Requirements:

- Reporting Period –for any consecutive 90 days for first year; one year subsequently
- For 2011 –Hospitals required to submit summary quality measure data to CMS or States by *attestation*
- For 2012 –Hospitals required to *electronically* submit quality measure data to CMS or States

## Where Do I Begin?

**Step 1:** Sign up to work with the Hawai'i Pacific Regional Extension Center's (HPREC) expert staff.

**Step 2:** Work with the HPREC staff to determine which category of incentives best meets your profile:

- Medicare Incentives
- Medicaid Incentives

**Step 3:** HPREC staff will assess your practice and help you develop a meaningful use action plan.

For additional information on how the Hawai'i Pacific REC can help you with Meaningful Use and the EHR Incentive Program, please contact Tom Cannon at [tcannon@mpqhf.org](mailto:tcannon@mpqhf.org) or 808-440-6024.



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Hawai'i  
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*Your EHR Meaningful Use Specialist*

## An Overview on Meaningful Use for Eligible Hospitals



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## An Overview on Meaningful Use

On Feb. 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) into law. This new law includes provisions (known as the HITECH Act) designed to encourage “meaningful use” of health information technology by health care professionals and hospitals.

Under the law, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in concert with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) created a new incentive program. The final rules were released on July 13, 2010 containing the requirements for demonstrating “meaningful use” and applying for incentive payments. Provided in this pamphlet are responses to common questions on Stage 1 meaningful use and EHR incentive payments. Responses are based on the CMS rule. However, this is not intended to be an official guide. We encourage you to work with the Hawai'i Pacific Regional Extension Center (REC) to make sure you and your practice qualify for incentives.

## What Is Meaningful Use Exactly?

Meaningful Use is defined as:

- Use of a certified EHR in a meaningful manner (ex: clinical documentation, e-prescribing, etc.)
- Use of certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information
- Use of certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures

## Who Is Eligible to Apply?

### Medicare

- “Subsection (d) hospitals” in the 50 states or DC that are paid under the hospital inpatient prospective payment system
- Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
- Medicare Advantage (MA) Hospitals

### Medicaid

- Acute care hospitals (including CAHs) with at least 10% Medicaid patient volume, as well as children’s hospitals (no Medicaid volume requirements)

NOTE: Some hospitals may receive incentive payments from both if they meet all eligibility criteria.

## What Factors in to EHR Incentive Payment Calculations for Hospitals?

### Medicare

#### Hospitals

- Product of three factors:
  1. An initial amount
  2. The Medicare Share
  3. A Transition Factor applicable to the payment year

#### Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)

- Product of two factors:
  1. The reasonable costs for the purchase of a certified EHR system
  2. The Medicare Share plus 20 percentage points

### Medicaid

#### Acute Care Hospitals (including CAHs)

States may pay children’s hospitals and acute care hospitals up to 100% of an aggregate EHR hospital incentive amount provided over a minimum of a three-year period and a maximum of a six-year period.

- Product of two factors:
  1. An overall EHR amount
  2. The Medicaid Share