



PROVIDER *bulletin*

Health Information Technology Update

This is a follow up to the EHR demonstration KHS hosted in October of 2009. Kern Health Systems is still very interested in working with the provider community to assist each and every provider within our network to secure an EHR. However, there are still a number of unanswered questions at the State and Federal level that have caused KHS to delay moving forward with the actual implementation of an EHR system at this time. In an effort to avoid potential confusion or duplication of effort, we are awaiting further clarification. We have provided current information on the following efforts:

What the Federal Government accomplished

Meaningful Use: CMS (Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services) has developed a proposed rule to define meaningful use of electronic health records. Implementation of meaningful use guidelines will begin in 2011 and will be rolled out in 3 stages, with each stage encouraging broader and more effective use of HIT.

EHR Certification Program: HHS (Health and Human Services) has developed a proposed rule to establish an initial set of standards and certification criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology. The rule is out for public comment at this time and awaiting finalization.

EHR Incentive Program: CMS has developed a proposed rule to implement incentive payments to eligible professionals. The rule specifies initial qualification criteria, calculation of incentive payment amounts, payment adjustments for failure to meet meaningful use, and other program participation requirements. The following table is an extract from the proposed rule and outlines potential incentive payments to eligible professionals who begin adoption of EHR technology. How these payments will be distributed to the provider is yet to be determined.

Calendar Year	Medicaid EPs who begin adoption in					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2011	\$21,250	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2012	\$8,500	\$21,250	-----	-----	-----	-----
2013	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250	-----	-----	-----
2014	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250	-----	-----
2015	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250	-----
2016	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250
2017	-----	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
2018	-----	-----	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
2019	-----	-----	-----	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
2020	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$8,500	\$8,500
2021	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$8,500
TOTAL	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750

What the State Governments accomplished

Cal eConnect: California has established a Health Information Exchange governance entity that will develop and enforce policy to support the efficient and secure exchange of health information and enforce “Meaningful Use”.

REC (Regional Extension Center): California has established, and the federal government has awarded grants to, a non-profit entity that will extend services to California’s healthcare providers. Services may include the following:

Negotiate Discount Pricing from EHR Vendors for the Physician Community

- Outreach and Education
- Office Needs Assessment
- EHR Implementation Consulting
- Workflow Redesign
- IT Consulting: Pre and Post EHR Implementation Support
- Create LEC’s

LEC (Local Extension Center): California plans to establish a network of local entities (7 – 10) under the REC that will offer in-depth knowledge of their geographical areas and provider communities. The LEC is to provide services at the local level in direction from the REC.



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What Kern Health Systems accomplished

Staying Involved: KHS is participating in weekly conference calls with Health Information Technology (HIT) community leaders and other stakeholders to provide feedback and stay informed on issues affecting our providers and members. Our IT staff is actively engaged in the ongoing discussion surrounding these items. At the point there is adequate clarity, KHS staff will provide recommendations to the KHS Board of Directors regarding how we may best assist our providers with an EHR decision. In the meantime we will continue to provide updates on the status of the aforementioned accomplishments.

Helpful Links

- To learn more about CalHIPSO, the entity that will be assisting providers in EHR selection and implementation visit www.calhipso.org/
- To view the full Electronic Health Record Incentive Program Proposed Rule visit <http://www.ehealth.ca.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=TKcKAA3R33M%3d&tabid=61>

