



“...reach out to patients...”

Demonstrate Meaningful Use With Your Own Practice eNewsletter

Receive up to \$44,000 per physician

The Economic Stimulus Package and Your Practice

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) has allocated billions of dollars to assist health care providers to adopt, implement, and effectively use electronic health records and other information technology to improve health outcomes and streamline practice operations.

Your Incentive Payments and “Meaningful Use”

According to the Act, physicians are eligible to receive up to \$44,000 in total incentives, per physician, from Medicare for “Meaningful Use” of information technology in their practice starting in 2011.

Medicare Bonus Payments							
Year of First Filing	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
2011	\$18,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$44,000
2012	\$0	\$18,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$44,000
2013	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$39,000
2014	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$24,000
2015 or later	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

TABLE 1: Stage of Meaningful Use Criteria by Payment Year

First Payment Year	Payment Year				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015+**
2011	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 2	Stage 3
2012		Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
2013			Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
2014				Stage 1	Stage 3
2015+*					Stage 3

* Avoids payment adjustments only for EPs in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program.

** Stage 3 criteria of meaningful use or a subsequent update to the criteria if one is established through rulemaking.

In order to qualify to receive these incentive funds you must demonstrate “Meaningful Use.” Meaningful Use means that you can show how your practice is utilizing information technology to improve health outcomes and streamline practice operations as specified by the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines (see <http://healthit.hhs.gov>).



In addition to any Electronic Health Record (EHR) initiatives you are taking at your practice, your Practice eNewsletter can also help you demonstrate Meaningful Use in the following ways:

**Meaningful Use Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM),
December 30, 2009**

Objective¹	Your Practice eNewsletter
<p><i>Stage 1 Objective Number [11]: Objective: Generate lists of patients by specific conditions to use for quality improvement, reduction of disparities, research, and outreach. Measure: Generate at least one report listing patients of the EP with a specific condition.</i></p>	<p>Your practice e-newsletter is a communication platform where you can include such information as: 1) reminders about flu season / flu shots have arrived; 2) cholesterol checks; 3) importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles; 4) reminders about preventive tests.</p>
<p><i>Stage 1 Objective Number [13]: Objective: Send reminders to patients per patient preference for preventive/ follow-up care Measure: Reminder sent to at least 50 percent of all unique patients seen by the EP that are 50 and over</i></p>	<p>Your practice e-newsletter is a communication platform where you can include such information as: 1) reminders about flu season / flu shots have arrived; 2) cholesterol checks; 3) importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles; 4) reminders about preventive tests.</p>
<p><i>Provide access to patient-specific education resources in common primary languages</i></p>	<p>Your practice e-newsletter lets you include health education resources at any time. You may include links to your own website, or links to other educational resources you find informative, appropriate, and supportive.</p>

Helpful Online Resources Regarding the ARRA, Incentive Payments, and Meaningful Use: <http://healthit.hhs.gov>

**Contact HealthBanks today to get started with your own Practice eNewsletter:
(888) 422-6579 Option 3 — www.healthbanks.com**

¹ Meaningful Use Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) - December 30, 2009
http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-31217_PI.pdf (December 30, 2009).