

PROGRAM UPDATE



July 21, 2015

*The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) continues to accept attestations for the Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. In Program Year 2012, more than **\$63 million** in incentive payments were made to eligible health care professionals and hospitals for the adoption, implementation or upgrade (AIU) and Meaningful Use (MU) of certified EHR technology. Payments for Program Year 2013 total more than **\$48 million** while Program Year 2014 payments total more than **\$14.8 million**.*

Clinical Quality Measures in 2015

With all of the changes due soon for the EHR Incentive Program and Meaningful Use, one aspect is not changing. Reporting CQMs in 2015 will follow the changes put in place starting in 2014. CQMs now fall into one of six National Quality Strategy (NQS) domains. EPs are required to report on nine CQMs that fall into at least three NQS domains and EHs are required to report on 16 CQMs that fall into at least three NQS domains. Unlike previous program years, EHs now have a choice in CQMs with the 16 chosen CQMs coming from a list of 29.

Last year, CORHIO recorded a webinar on the changes to CQMs and the information in it is still valid. If you would like to refresh your knowledge of reporting CQMs, you can view it [here](#).

In addition, CMS has just recently published a new FAQ about reporting CQMs with a zero in the numerator and/or denominator. It's FAQ 12356 and can be found [here](#). On its website, CMS also has a lot of general information on the [2014 CQMs](#) (same rules will apply in 2015).

Preparing for 2015 – Public Health Reporting

As we wait for the final rule outlining the Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 – 2017, we recommend that you take the time to adequately prepare for your next attestation. One of the ways you can prepare is to make sure you have taken the proper steps to attest to the Public Health Immunization Registry objective and measure.

For EPs and EHs scheduled to attest to Stage 1 in 2015, please note that the exclusions for the Immunization Registry objective are still in place and, if attesting to Medicaid, the documentation requirements are the same. You will need to upload a copy of the letter you've received from the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) if the integration between your EHR and CIIS is not complete.

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Some EPs and EHs have been in the queue for a longer period of time than others and may have lost the letter supplied to them by the CIIS Program. If that is the case, please email Kim Gulliver, CIIS Interoperability Coordinator, at kim.gulliver@state.co.us to request another letter.

EPs and EHs scheduled to attest to Stage 2 in 2015 are required to register their intent by completing the CDPHE Meaningful Use Registration Form at <http://www.costage2mu.dphe.state.co.us/>. You must register your intent within **60 days of the start of your EHR reporting period**, so don't delay!

Reminder: Program Year 2015 – Opening Date and Medicaid Eligibility

Due to the anticipated 2015-2017 Modifications to Meaningful Use final ruling, the start date of the 2015 program year for all Medicaid EHR Incentive Program attestations will be delayed. The Department (Colorado Medicaid) has aligned itself with the Meaningful Use efforts of CMS and placed the Colorado Registration & Attestation (CO R&A) system in an inactive status for program year 2015 at this time.

The Department understands the inconvenience that this places on our Medicaid eligible professionals and eligible hospitals, and we will work to ensure the system is appropriately functioning when the rule is finalized and system updates are made available.

We hope to have 2015 eligibility workbooks ready by September so that you can prepare for the 2015 attestations once the program year opens.

As soon as we know an opening date for the CO R&A to accept 2015 attestations, we will send out a notification.

Colorado Medicaid and CHP+ Provider Revalidation & Enrollment Begins September 15, 2015

New federal regulations established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require enhanced screening and revalidation of all Medicare, Medicaid, and CHP+ providers.

Beginning September 15, 2015, all Colorado providers who want to continue, or begin, providing services to Medicaid and CHP+ members after March 31, 2016, will be required to enroll and revalidate their licensure and business information under new federal enrollment screening criteria. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has posted more information on the provider screening rule [on their website](#); click on the **Federal Provider Screening Regulations** link.

Based on CMS' [provider type and risk designation](#), this process may include a criminal background check, fingerprinting, and unannounced site visits – including pre-enrollment site visits for some providers. Providers who fail to revalidate and enroll by March 31, 2016 may have their claims suspended or denied.

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Existing Colorado Medicaid and CHP+ providers will begin revalidation/enrollment on September 15, 2015. To help all existing providers meet the March 31, 2016 deadline, HCPF will group counties together and initiate a series of revalidation/enrollment ‘waves’ by county. A map showing the county waves/groups and a schedule of when each wave can begin their revalidation/enrollment is available on the [Provider Resources web page](#).

Providers are strongly encouraged to start preparing now by gathering documentation that will be needed to begin the revalidation/enrollment process:

- Obtain your National Provider Identifier (NPI).
- If you do not have an NPI, you may request one through the [National Plan & Provider Enumeration System](#) (NPPES) website.
- Make electronic copies of certifications and licensures.

HCPF has created a general ‘[Provider Enrollment Checklist](#)’ that lists information you will need to have ready. The checklist and a number of helpful FAQs can be found on the [Provider Resources web page](#). Providers are encouraged to visit the website often as this information is updated frequently.

Updated Anticipated Timeline – Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

Event	Status/Expected Date
CO R&A System begins accepting Medicaid & Medicare Meaningful Use attestations	Now Open!
First incentive payments issued to EPs who successfully attested to Medicaid Stage 1 Meaningful Use	Paid!
First incentive payments issues to EHs who successfully attested to Medicaid Stage 1 Meaningful Use	Paid!
CO R&A System opens for EHs to attest to 2014 Stage 1 and Stage 2 Meaningful Use for FFY 2014	Program Year Closed
CO R&A System opens for EPs to attest to 2014 Stage 1 for program year 2014	Program Year Closed
CO R&A System opens for EPs and EHs to attest to 2013 Stage 1 Objectives for the 2014 Flexibility Rule	Program Year Closed
CO R&A System open for EPs and EHs to attest to 2015 Meaningful Use	Tentatively Scheduled for January 1, 2016

Medicaid Program Point of Contact and Partnerships



COLORADO MEDICAID EHR INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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The Department has partnered with CORHIO to provide program coordination and assist with provider communications and outreach regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Coordinator will be the central point of contact for EPs, EAs, partners and other interested parties on requirements, processes and questions regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Coordinator, Tracy McDonald, can be reached at MedicaidEHR@corhio.org or 720.285.3232.

Xerox has been contracted by the Department to manage the Provider Outreach Page and to provide the Colorado R&A System, including the web portal through which eligible providers can register and attest to receive the EHR incentive payments.