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ARRA EHR STIMULUS Baselines for Medicare and Medicaid (as of 5/31/2012)

Support Resource: CMS EHR Information Center 1-888-734-6433
Call Reference # 47635

Medicare: Incentive payments are based on 75% of allowable Medicare charges for the attestation calendar year. The maximum amount is \$18,000 (75 % of 24,000 allowable charges).

Providers will be paid on 75% of allowable charges up to \$18,000 for 2012.

We specifically asked "so if a provider only bills \$10,000 in allowable charges for the attestation year, then they will be paid 75% of \$10,000 after Feb 29 of the following year? Answer received was "Yes you are correct."

" Medicare EHR incentive payments are based on 75% of the estimated allowed charges for covered professional services furnished by the EP during the entire calendar year"

CMS Website Last Updated: February 2012

Source: <https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/FAQsRemediatedandRevised.pdf>

Question 235) How and when will incentive payments for the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs be made?

For eligible professionals (EPs), incentive payments for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program will be made approximately four to eight weeks after an EP successfully attests that they have demonstrated meaningful use of certified EHR technology. However, EPs will not receive incentive payments within that timeframe if they have not yet met the threshold for allowed charges for covered professional services furnished by the EP during the year. Payments will be held until the EP meets the \$24,000 threshold in allowed charges for the calendar year in order to maximize the amount of the EHR incentive payment they receive. Medicare EHR incentive payments are based on 75% of the estimated allowed charges for covered professional services furnished by the EP during the entire calendar year. If the EP has not met the \$24,000 threshold in allowed charges by the end of calendar year, CMS expects to issue an incentive payment for the EP in March of the following year (allowing two months after the end of the calendar year for all pending claims to be processed).

Medicare Incentives: Beginning in 2011 physicians who are "meaningful users" of "certified EMR/EHR technology" will be eligible to receive **up to \$44,000** paid out over a five-year period in the form of incentive payments through Medicare reimbursements. Medicare incentives are based on "meaningful use" and are not tied to the actual cost of acquiring or maintaining an EHR.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the incentive payment is equal to 75 percent of an eligible providers Medicare Part-B physician fee schedule allowed charges submitted by the eligible provider no later than two months after the end of the calendar year. For example, to qualify for the maximum \$18,000 incentive payment in 2011, eligible providers must bill \$24,000 or more in Medicare Part-B claims (based on allowed charges). If you bill less than \$24,000, such as \$10,000, your incentive payment is equal to 75% of the allowed charges or \$7,500. Source: http://www.first-insight.com/News_Events-ARRA-HITECHACT.html