Meaningful Use Attestation Deadline Only 4 Months Away

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If you are eligible to participate in both the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs, you must demonstrate meaningful use to avoid the 2015 Medicare payment reduction. You may demonstrate meaningful use under either Medicare or Medicaid. Medicaid eligible professionals (EPs) who have not participated in the EHR Incentive Program and who would like to for Program Year 2014 have until **October 1, 2014** to successfully attest and avoid the 1 percent Medicare payment reduction. Please note that this deadline is **ONLY FOUR MONTHS** away.

EPs who first demonstrated meaningful use in 2011 or 2012 must have demonstrated meaningful use for a full year in 2013 to avoid payment reductions in 2015. EPs who will first demonstrate meaningful use in 2014 must demonstrate meaningful use for a 90-day reporting period in 2014 to avoid Medicare payment reduction in 2015. This reporting period must occur by the October 1 deadline.

The Medicare payment reduction begins on January 1, 2015. The reduction is 1 percent per year and is cumulative up to 5 percent for every year that an EP is not a meaningful user of certified EHR technology (CEHRT). EPs must continue to demonstrate meaningful use every year to avoid payment adjustments in subsequent years.

If you successfully met meaningful use for the first time in 2013, you will be exempt from the payment adjustment. However, you must meet meaningful use in 2014 in order to avoid the payment reduction in 2016.

If you are classified in the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) as having one of the five specialty codes below as your primary area of practice, you will be granted a hardship exception and are automatically exempt from the 2015 payment adjustment.

- Diagnostic Radiology (30)
- Nuclear Medicine (36)
- Interventional Radiology (94)
- Anesthesiology (05)
- Pathology (22)

More information on the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program as well as Meaningful Use can be found at the Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) website: [http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/HealthIT/HIT_Home.aspx](http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/HealthIT/HIT_Home.aspx).

Please contact HealthIT@tmhp.com or 1-800-925-9126, option 4, if you have questions.