



Wisconsin Health Information Technology Extension Center (WHITEC) *Meaningful Use Incentives Fact Sheet*

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus package includes financial incentives for health care providers that achieve meaningful use with an EHR. A maximum of \$44,000 per provider is available for Medicare incentives and a maximum of \$63,750 per provider for Medicaid.

Meaningful Use:

The official meaningful use standards are not scheduled to be released from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) until the end of 2009. Initial recommendations by the Health IT Policy Committee work group were released for defining "meaningful use" of electronic health records. They offer 10 care goals to meet by 2011. The care goals are as follows¹:

- Provide access to comprehensive patient health data for patient's health care team
- Use evidence-based order sets and CPOE
- Apply clinical decision support at the point of care
- Generate lists of patients who need care and use them to reach out to patients
- Report to patient registries for quality improvement, public reporting, etc.
- Provide patients and families with timely access to data, knowledge, and tools to make informed decisions and to manage their health
- Exchange meaningful clinical information among professional health care team
- Communicate with public health agencies
- Ensure privacy and security protections for confidential information through operating policies, procedures, and technologies and compliance with applicable law
- Provide transparency of data sharing to patient

The work group also released a matrix detailing objectives for 2011, 2013, and 2015. To see the entire matrix, visit www.whitec.org.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the incentives providers must use a certified EHR in a "meaningful" manner, exchange health information to improve the quality of care, and report on clinical quality measures.

An "eligible professional" for purposes of meaningful use is defined for Medicare incentives as doctor of medicine or osteopathy, doctor of dental surgery or medicine, doctor of podiatric medicine, doctor of optometry or chiropractor. For Medicaid, the eligible professionals include

¹ Health IT Policy Council Recommendations to National Coordinator for Defining Meaningful Use Final – August 2009

