

May 27, 2015

Practice Management

Medicare Eligible Professionals: Take Action by July 1 to Avoid 2016 Medicare Payment Adjustment

Payment adjustments for eligible professionals that did not successfully participate in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program in 2014 will begin on January 1, 2016. Medicare eligible professionals can avoid the 2016 payment adjustment by taking action by July 1 and applying for a 2016 hardship exception.



The hardship exception applications and [instructions](#) for an [individual](#) and for [multiple](#) Medicare eligible professionals are available on the [EHR Incentive Programs website](#) and outline the specific types of circumstances that CMS considers to be barriers to achieving meaningful use.

To file a hardship exception, you must:

- Show proof of a circumstance beyond your control.
- Explicitly outline how the circumstance significantly impaired your ability to meet meaningful use.
- Provide supporting documentation for certain hardship exception categories.

CMS will review applications to determine whether or not a hardship exception should be granted.

You do not need to submit a hardship application if you:

- are a newly practicing eligible professional
- are hospital-based: a provider is considered hospital-based if he or she provides more than 90% of their covered professional services in either an inpatient (Place of Service 21) or emergency department (Place of Service 23), and certain observation services using Place of Service 22; or
- are an eligible professional with certain PECOS specialties (05-Anesthesiology, 22-Pathology, 30-Diagnostic Radiology, 36-Nuclear Medicine, 94-Interventional Radiology)

To be automatically granted a hardship exception, CMS will use Medicare data to determine your eligibility.

Apply by July 1

As a reminder, the application must be submitted electronically or postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on July 1, 2015 to be considered. If approved, the exception is valid for the 2016 payment adjustment only. If you intend to claim a hardship exception for a subsequent payment adjustment year, a new application must be submitted for the appropriate year.

In addition, providers who are not considered eligible professionals under the Medicare program are not subject to payment adjustments and do not need to submit an application. Those types of providers include:

- Medicaid only

- No claims to Medicare
- Hospital-based

Want more information about the EHR Incentive Programs?

Visit the [EHR Incentive Programs website](#) for the latest news and updates on the programs.

New PQRS Video Available for Free - No Registration Necessary

A video recording of the presentation entitled: "PQRS/Value-Based Provider Modifier: What Medicare Professionals Need to Know in 2015" has been posted to the CMS MLN Connects® page on YouTube. This covers essential PQRS topics including updates to PQRS reporting in 2015, an outlook for the quality-tiering approach in 2017, and the Informal Inquiry Process for the Value-Based Payment Modifier.

This presentation is the same as the March 31, 2015 and April 7, 2015 webinars. A link to the video can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/Ww0oH-FhaYM>

Quality



Making Fall Prevention Part of Primary Care

Implementing CDC's STEADI Toolkit in a NYS County Health System (recorded webinar now available)

Falls among older New Yorkers (age 65 and over) are the leading cause of injury deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits. To reduce falls, the CDC developed the STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, & Injuries) Toolkit. The STEADI Toolkit is a comprehensive resource designed to help healthcare providers incorporate fall risk assessment and proven interventions into clinical practice.

The Chapter is excited to offer this one hour CME accredited recorded webinar on "[Implementing CDC's STEADI Toolkit in a NYS County Health System](#)".

Frank Floyd, MD, FACP, Associate Medical Director & STEADI Champion, United Health Services presented the webinar, which highlighted:

- Information on the burden of falls in older adults in New York State
- Resources in the CDC STEADI Toolkit
- Challenges of incorporating fall prevention into clinical care
- Tips for incorporating fall prevention into clinical care

Physicians who adopt STEADI can earn **20 ABIM/ABFM Maintenance of Certification credits**. These credits qualify for Category II AMA credits as well. Additional Information can be found on the Chapter's Website at: [STEADI](#)

Education

New Webinar Scheduled:

The Status of the State Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY) and its Patient Record Lookup Functionality; When Physicians will have access to Patient Records



This one-hour webinar, co-sponsored by NYACP in conjunction with MSSNY and the NYSDOH New York eHealth Collaborative, will:

- Provide an update and overview of the Statewide Healthcare Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY) and its value to healthcare providers
- Give Healthcare Providers Information on how they will be able to access and share patient records through SHIN-NY
- Provide an overview of what capabilities will be available for healthcare providers this year and what they may already be able to access

Webinar Schedule:

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 (12:30 - 1:30pm est): *Registration will be available soon!*

Tuesday, June 16, 2015 (8:00 - 9:00 am est): [Register Here](#)

Thursday, June 18, 2015 (6:00-7:00 pm est): [Register Here](#)

For additional information go to: [Statewide Health Information Network of New York \(SHIN-NY\)](#); [Statewide Patient Record Look-Up](#)

NYACP Holds Successful District Meeting in Southern Tier

The Southern Tier District hosted a “Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind” on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at Nirchi’s-on-the-Avenue Restaurant in Endicott, NY. The program agenda included a 1-hour CME Category 1 presentation by Leslie Bank, MD on the treatment for Hepatitis C and a presentation by Joyce McCormick, Risk Management Consultant with MLMIC, on the “Transitions of Care: Promoting Patient Safety and Reducing Readmissions” .

The District’s leaders, Lisa Harris, MD, FACP (District President), Amr Shady, MD, FACP (District Councilor) and Umar Hardi, MD, FACP Immediate Past District Councilor welcomed attendee’s to this event.



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