

# Avoid Meaningful Use penalty and earn up to \$23,000+ incentives

You must start reporting on MU2 measures from **July 1, 2014** or face government penalty.

Switch to **McKesson EHR Cloud-based or office-based system** as soon as possible in order to avoid Meaningful Use penalties. Remember, if you don't start your Meaningful Use program now, you are going to miss the **July 1, 2014** deadline and will be liable for a 1% penalty starting from 2015.

Once you sign up for your EHR, our Meaningful Use our consultation team will help you every step of the way, from setting up your account and charting patients to attesting and getting your incentives as soon as possible.

**Switch to a compliant EHR now. Earn big incentives.**

## What are meaningful use penalties?

Will I Be Penalized for Not Using an EHR System?

The simple answer is yes.

The government wants to move the health industry into the digital age and is giving incentives and deadline for those who adopt electronic health records (EHR). 2014 is the last year to apply for government incentives. However, the penalties will start in 2015 and accumulate over time until eligible providers (EPs) start meaningfully using their EHR technology.

The penalty will be in the form of payment adjustments made to their Medicare Part B reimbursements. This payment adjustment applies to Medicare eligible professionals (EPs), subsection (d) hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) who fail to successfully demonstrate meaningful use prior to 2015. The payment adjustment will also impact Medicare and dual-eligible providers who treat both Medicare and Medicaid patients.

The payment adjustment does not apply to Medicaid EPs, including federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health centers (RHCs) that bill Medicare using revenue codes.

**What if I don't attest for Meaningful use (Government Incentive Program) this year(2014)?**

- a. If you have not attested for Meaningful Use in the past This is the last year to begin participation in the EHR Incentive program. Thus if you don't, you lose out on \$ 23,520 government incentives and will be penalized in 2015 by payment adjustment being made to your Medicare Part B reimbursements.
- b. If you have attested for Meaningful Use in the past Penalties are based on the prior year's reporting period. Thus, Medicare EPs must continue to demonstrate meaningful use every year in order to avoid future penalties. For example, an EP that began participation in 2013 but did not demonstrate meaningful use in 2014 would still be subject to penalties in 2015.

### **What are the reporting deadlines in 2014?**

- a. If you have not attested for Meaningful Use in the past You must “meaningfully use” a certified EHR for 90 days and attest to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) before October 1, 2014. The last day you can begin your reporting period in order to attest by October 1st is July 1, 2014.
- b. If you have attested for Meaningful Use in the past You have until October 1st to begin meaningfully using an EHR and complete the consecutive 90-day requirement that allows you to attest and receive 2014 dollars and avoid a 2% cut to your Medicare reimbursements in 2016.

### **Will all EPs have 1 year Reporting period in 2015?**

In 2015 all providers except first year stage 1 providers will need to report for a full year.

### **When should we start reporting on Meaningful Use stage 2?**

2014 is the first year to start reporting on MU stage 2. However, before you start reporting on stage 2 you must have completed at least 2 years of stage 1.

### **Are there any exceptions for the EPs?**

There are number of different categories where EPs can apply for hardship exceptions. To learn more about hardship exceptions for Eligible Professionals, view the CMS tip sheet for Medicare EPs. Be aware though, the categories set by CMS are not very well defined especially in case of technology issues. For example, the only exemption you will have in case of EHR vendor is if your vendor CCHIT certification for 2014 has been delayed not if your EHR vendor has not yet provided you with the necessary MU update.

**CMS will have the final authority to judge whether you qualify for such an exemption.**