

Register Now for the CMS EHR Incentive Programs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides incentive payments to eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals through the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs.ⁱ Now is the time to register and start your path to payment. You can register even before you have certified EHR technology or a record in the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS).ⁱⁱ

Eligibility

Find out if you may be eligible to participate in the Medicare and/or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs by using the [Eligibility Wizard](#) on the CMS EHR website. This tool allows you to find out which programs you may qualify for just by answering a few “yes” or “no” questions.

How to Register

EPs and eligible hospitals can register for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program through the CMS website at <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov>. EPs and eligible hospitals can initiate registration for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program through the CMS website at <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov>, but must complete the registration process through their state Medicaid agency’s registration system.

Information needed to register differs for EPs and eligible hospitals participating in the EHR Incentive Programs. When you register, regardless of whether you are an EP or eligible hospital, you will need to have the following information:

- National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- CMS Identity and Access Management (I&A) User ID and Password:
 - EPs can use the same user ID and password they use for the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System. This is also the same user ID and password used to access PECOS.
 - For eligible hospitals, Authorized Officials can use the same user ID and password they use to access PECOS. Additional hospital staff will need to request access to the "EHR Incentive Programs" application through [Identity & Access Management](#) and be approved by the hospital’s Authorized Official.

As an EP, you will also need:

- National Plan and Provider Enumeration System User ID and Password

EPs reassigning benefits will need:

- Payee Tax Identification Number
- Payee National Provider Identifier

If you are registering as an eligible hospital, you will also need:

- CMS Certification Number (CCN)
- Hospital Tax Identification Number

Although you do not need to be enrolled in PECOS to register, all eligible hospitals and Medicare EPs will need to be enrolled in PECOS in order to receive an incentive payment in the EHR Incentive Programs.

In addition to registering through the CMS system, registration for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program must also be done on the state level using your state Medicaid agency’s registration system. For a list of

State Medicaid program pages, visit the [State EHR Incentive Program Launch Times and HIT Websites Page](#). If you are an EP and your state's EHR Incentive Program has not yet launched, you will not be able to complete registration until your state's program launches. If you represent an eligible hospital, and your state's EHR Incentive Program has not yet launched at the time of your registration, your Medicaid registration will be placed into a "Pending State Validation" status until your state's program is launched. You will not be able to complete registration until your state's program is launched.

For a list of expected program launch dates, please visit the [Medicaid state information page](#).

Third-party Registration for EPs

EPs participating in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program can now designate a third party to register and attest on their behalf using an I&A web user account.

Individual states will not necessarily offer a third-party option for attesting for their Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. Check with your state to see what options are available.

Dually-eligible Hospitals

If you are registering on behalf of a hospital that is eligible for EHR incentive payments under both the Medicare and Medicaid programs, select "Both Medicare and Medicaid" when you register, even if you plan to apply for only one of the EHR Incentive Programs. This is recommended since once a payment is initiated, **hospitals cannot manually change their registration type** (e.g., change from one program to "Both Medicare and Medicaid" or from one program to the other). Changes in program registration may cause significant payment delays.

If you are registering on behalf of a children's hospital or cancer hospital, you are only eligible for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and should select "Medicaid-only" for your hospital type.

Resources

Visit the [CMS EHR Incentive Programs website](#) to find out more about the incentive programs.

ⁱ The Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs were authorized under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The programs provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate "meaningful use" of certified EHR technology in ways that improve quality, safety, and effectiveness of patient-centered care. Under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, eligible professionals can receive as much as \$44,000 over a consecutive five-year period. Under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, eligible professionals can receive as much as \$63,750 over six years. Under both the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, millions of dollars are available for eligible hospitals and CAHs that satisfy program requirements.

ⁱⁱ This article provides guidance to professionals and hospitals that may be eligible for EHR incentive payments. However, we urge readers to refer to the regulations for definitive rules on eligibility, payment, and other requirements. To the extent anything in this guidance conflicts with such rules and regulations, our rules and regulations would take precedence. Regulations are available at: http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/60_RegulationsNotices.asp#TopOfPage

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