

Medicare News This Week: The 27.5% Cut, Meaningful Use Stage 2 Specifications, and Upcoming Webinars

This Week's Medicare News for Medical Practice Managers

- Vice Chair Gingrey (R-GA) “Confident” of SGR Fix Passing in Lame Duck Congress Session ([jump to story](#))
- CMS Releases Stage 2 Meaningful Use Specification Sheets with Details on Each Measure ([jump to story](#))
- Information on Upcoming Webinars ([jump to story](#))



Gingrey “Confident” Lame Duck Congress Will Pass SGR Fix.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (11/15, Subscription Publication) reports that Representative Phil Gingrey (R-GA), vice chair of the

House Doctors Caucus said Wednesday that he is “pretty confident” Congress will “approve a one-year freeze in Medicare physician pay rates” during the lame duck session. This so-called “SGR patch” would put off a slated 27.5% cut to Medicare reimbursement rates. He said he believed “Congress would find the \$18 billion needed to offset the cost of a one-year payment freeze,” adding that “his caucus plans to focus next year on finding a replacement t the SGR and a way to pay the \$300 billion cost of permanently replacing it.”

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CMS Releases Stage 2 Meaningful Use Specification Sheets with Details on Each Measure

CMS has added Stage 2 meaningful use specification sheets for both eligible professionals (EPs) and for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) to help them participate in Stage 2 of meaningful use in the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs.

The new specification sheets can be found on the [Stage 2 page](#) of the EHR website. Each specification sheet includes the objective, measure, and exclusion for each core and menu objective, as well as a definition of terms, attestation requirements, additional information, and the corresponding standards and certification criteria.

You can view the specification sheets in two ways:

- **Use the Stage 2 Specification Sheet Table of Contents –** The Table of Contents lists all the core and menu objectives, with direct links to each individual measure specification sheet. The page contains a Table of Contents for both [EPs](#) and for [eligible hospitals and CAHs](#).

- **Download ALL Stage 2 Specification Sheets** – Zip files containing PDFs of all of the core and menu objectives for [EPs](#) and for [eligible hospitals and CAHs](#) are available for download on the page.

***Reminder:** The earliest that the Stage 2 criteria will be effective is in fiscal year 2014 for eligible hospitals and CAHs or calendar year 2014 for EPs. All providers must achieve meaningful use under the Stage 1 criteria before moving to Stage 2.*

Want more information about the EHR Incentive Programs?

Make sure to visit the [Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs website](#) for the latest news and updates on the EHR Incentive Programs.

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Information on Two Upcoming Webinars from CMS

National Medicare Training Program Update Webinar on Tuesday, November 20.

Attendees will hear information on:

- Flu Vaccine
- Plan Finder
- Innovations Center
- Enrollment Opportunities for People Affected by Hurricane Sandy
- Pharmacy & Provider Access During Federal Disasters and Other Public Health Emergencies

***When:** Tuesday, November 20, 2012*

Time: 2:30-3:30 p.m., ET

Call-In Number: [877-251-0301](tel:877-251-0301)

Conference ID: 90024799

Webinar ID: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/nmtpnov12/>

Make Your Community a Source of Health and Wellness – Establishing a Health Ministry in Your Community Webinar on Thursday, November 29.

Sue Heitmuller, Health Ministry Coordinator for Adventist HealthCare, will speak in-depth on how to lead communities through the process of faithfully establishing health ministries.

The presentation will be followed by a Question & Answer session.

When: Thursday, November 29, 2012

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m., ET

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