

ARRA Eligible Providers: Who Is Eligible to Receive Stimulus Money and How Much is Available Per Provider?

Note: read my latest post on getting the EHR Incentives [here](#).

Medicare Definition of Eligible Provider (EP)

For Medicare, physicians and some hospitals are eligible providers. "Physicians" includes doctors of medicine (MD) or osteopathy (DO), dentists or dental surgeons (DDS or DMD), podiatric medicine (DPM), and optometry (OD) and chiropractors (DC).

For providers, their annual payment will be equal to 75 percent of Medicare allowable charges for covered services in a year, not to exceed the incentives in the table below. Payments will be made as additions to claims payments.

Hospitals include quick-care hospitals (subsection-d) and critical access hospitals and only includes hospitals in the 50 States or the District of Columbia.



Medicaid Definition of Eligible Provider (EP)

Medicaid takes the Medicare definition of eligible providers (physicians) and adds nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and physician assistants, however, physician assistants are only eligible when they are employed at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) or rural health clinic (RHC) that is led by a Physician Assistant. Eligible hospitals include quick care hospitals and children's hospitals.

At minimum, 30 percent of an EP's patient encounters must be attributable to Medicaid over any continuous 90-day period within the most recent calendar year. For pediatricians, however, this threshold is lowered to 20 percent.

The first year of payment the Medicaid provider must demonstrate that he is engaged in efforts to adopt, implement, or upgrade certified EHR technology. For years of payment after year 1, the Medicaid provider must demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.



Change 1:

The definition of "hospital-based physician" was recently clarified to include physicians working in hospital outpatient clinics (employed physicians) as opposed to the inpatient units, surgery suites or emergency departments. This still excludes pathologists, anesthesiologists, ER physicians, hospitalists and others who see most of their patients in the ER as outpatients or as hospital inpatients.

Possible Change 2:

The Health Information Technology Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010 (HR 5040) is a bill in the US Congress originating in the House of Representatives that would amend the Public Health Service Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes. You can track the bill [here](#).

For more information on stimulus money for meaningful use of an EMR, read my post [here](#).