

# How Do You Get That Stimulus Money for Using an Electronic Medical Record? (You Register!)



Image via Wikipedia

**Note: see my latest post on registering and attesting for the EHR Incentive Program here.**

## **Registration opens on January 3, 2011 for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs**

1. Register as soon as possible after January 3, 2011.
2. You can register before you have a certified EHR, but you will have to have an EHR when you attest.
3. You can register even if you do not have an enrollment record in PECOS.
4. A link to the Incentive Registration will be available **here** when it is published.
5. Not all states will be ready to participate in the Medicaid program on January 3rd. Information by state

is here.

## What do you have to have to register?

1. **A National Provider Identifier (NPI)** All eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) must have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.
2. **An enrollment record in the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS)** All eligible hospitals and Medicare eligible professionals must have an enrollment record in PECOS to participate in the EHR Incentive Programs. Eligible professionals who are only participating in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program are not required to be enrolled in PECOS. If you do not have an enrollment record in PECOS, you should still register for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.
3. **CMS Identity and Access Management (I&A) User ID and Password**
  - **Eligible Professionals:** Eligible professionals can use the same User ID and Password they use for the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). This is also the same User ID and Password that is used to access PECOS. If you do not have an active User ID and Password for NPPES or PECOS, request them **here**. You will need your type 2 NPI, your Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), and your address from IRS Form CP-575. You will also need to mail a copy of IRS Form CP-575 as directed.
  - **Hospitals/Critical Access Hospitals:** Authorized Officials can use the same User ID and Password they use to access PECOS. If you do not have an Authorized Official with access to PECOS, request a User ID and Password **here**. You will need your type 2 NPI, your Taxpayer Identification Number

(TIN), and your address from the IRS Form CP-575. You will need to mail a copy of the IRS Form CP-575 as directed. Additional hospital staff will need to request access to the “EHR Incentive Programs” application **here** and be approved by the Hospital’s Authorized Official.

## **What else do you need to know about registration?**

### **Hospitals:**

1. Hospitals that are eligible for EHR incentive payments under both Medicare and Medicaid should select “Both Medicare and Medicaid” during the registration process, even if they plan to apply only for a Medicaid EHR incentive payment by adopting, implementing, or upgrading certified EHR technology. Dually-eligible hospitals can then attest through CMS for their Medicare EHR incentive payment at a later date, if they so desire. It is important for a dually-eligible hospital to select “Both Medicare and Medicaid” from the start of registration in order to maintain this option.
2. Hospitals that register only for the Medicaid program (or only the Medicare program) will not be able to manually change their registration (i.e., change to “Both Medicare and Medicaid” or from one program to the other) after a payment is initiated and this may cause significant delays in receiving a Medicare EHR incentive payment.

### **Eligible Professionals:**

1. Eligible professionals eligible for both the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs must choose which incentive program they wish to participate in when they register.

2. Before 2015, an eligible professional may switch programs only once after the first incentive payment is initiated. Most eligible professionals will maximize their incentive payments by participating in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

**The Electronic Health Record (EHR) Information Center** is open to assist the EHR Provider Community with inquiries.

**Hours of operation are:**

8:30 a.m. " " 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) Monday through Friday (except federal holidays)

1-888-734-6433 (primary number) or 888-734-6563 (TTY number)

**Image via Wikipedia**