



## **SPECIAL BULLETIN**

May 17, 2013

### **METHOD 2 PHYSICIANS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE EHR INCENTIVES**

#### ***CMS is accepting forms for reassignment of payments to CAHs***

In January, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that physicians who assign their reimbursement and billing to a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) under Method II (CAH II) are now eligible to participate in the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program as eligible professionals (EPs). CMS is now accepting requests for reassignment of payments to CAHs.

#### **Incentive Payments Begin in 2014**

To review, CAH II physicians can begin participation in calendar year (CY) 2013. CAH II physicians will need to [register and attest](#) to demonstrating [meaningful use](#) of [certified EHR technology](#) in order to receive their incentive payment. All EPs, including CAH II physicians, in their first year of participation must start by demonstrating Stage 1 of meaningful use. The stages of meaningful use progress as the program continues. CAH II physicians who begin participation in CY 2013 will be eligible to earn a maximum Medicare EHR incentive payment of \$39,000. However, due to the time required to implement the system changes, they will not be able to submit attestations until January 2014.

#### **Reassigning Payments to CAHs**

If a provider would like to qualify for an EHR incentive payment and is reassigned to a CAH, this information may be verified through PECOS once an 855R form is submitted for an enrolled provider/supplier. If the provider is not currently enrolled, 855I and 855R forms must be submitted and processed. CMS is now accepting these forms for reassignment of payments to CAHs. Medicare may pay: (1) a physician or other supplier's employer if the supplier is required, as a condition of employment, to turn over to the employer the fees for his or her services; or (2) an entity (i.e., a person, group, or facility) that is enrolled in the Medicare program for services furnished by a physician or other supplier under a contractual arrangement with that entity. This means that Part A and Part B entities other than physician/practitioner group practices can receive reassigned benefits, assuming the requirements for a reassignment exception are met and that the reassignee meets all enrollment requirements.

#### **CAH II Resource Available**

An updated [CAH Method II Physician Participation fact sheet](#) is available to CAH Method II physicians for more information on how to participate, including additional payment information and guidance on reassigning their billing to the CAH.

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