

In order to qualify for maximum Physician Incentives through the HITECH Act (part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), you must meet the following requirements.

- ✓ **You are an independent office-based or hospital-employed physician (*not hospital-based*).** Eligible physicians include
 - A doctor of medicine or osteopathy
 - A doctor of dental surgery or of dental medicine
 - A doctor of podiatric medicine
 - A doctor of optometry
 - A chiropractor
 - A certified mid-wife (Medicaid provision only)
 - Nurse practitioner (Medicaid provision only)
 - Physician assistant (Medicaid provision only, under certain circumstances)

- ✓ **You are a physician who accepts Medicare and submits Medicare Part B claims.***
 - The Medicare program offers up to \$44,000 in incentive payments over a 5-year period beginning in 2011.
 - You must qualify before 2013 to receive full incentive payout.
 - You must qualify before 2015 to avoid Medicare penalties.
 - There will be no payments to providers after 2016.

OR

- ✓ **You are a physician who sees more than 30% of patients paying with Medicaid (20% for pediatricians).***
 - The Medicaid program offers up to \$63,750 per provider over a 6-year period beginning in 2011.
 - You must qualify by 2016 to receive full incentive payout.
 - There will be no payments to providers after 2021.

- ✓ **You implement an Electronic Health Records (EHR) System with meaningful use** to include
 - ePrescribing
 - clinical reporting
 - interoperability

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may require more stringent measures of meaningful use over time.

*The HITECH Act (part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) outlines two separate and distinct incentive payment programs, one through Medicare and one through Medicaid. Providers can only receive incentive payments from one of the programs and will need to determine where they stand to benefit most.

If you operate solely in a hospital environment and/or you do not accept Medicaid or Medicare or do not currently have the specified patient payor mix, you may apply for grants and/or loans to offset the upfront costs of the purchase of an EHR but will not be eligible for incentives as currently delineated.