

**South Carolina**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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## MEDICAID BULLETIN

**TO: Providers Indicated**

**SUBJECT: EHR Incentive Program Information**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 set aside more than \$27 billion for the nationwide development of health information technology infrastructure. The ultimate goal of the federal investment is to allow for the secure flow of patient records and clinical data among multiple health care providers, leading to improved care coordination, reduced medical errors and greater efficiency.

As a result, eligible Medicare and/or Medicaid providers may qualify to receive incentive payments over six years to adopt and upgrade certified electronic health record (EHR) technology. With approval from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) plans to begin making payments to qualified Medicaid providers beginning in January of 2011.

Eligible professionals may receive as much as \$44,000 under Medicare and \$63,750 under Medicaid, and hospitals may receive millions of dollars for implementation and meaningful use of certified EHRs under both Medicare and Medicaid. To take full advantage of the incentives, providers must demonstrate they are using certified EHR technology to achieve specified objectives, also referred to as “meaningful use” (see links below).

### How to Get Started



In South Carolina, **CITIA-SC** (Center for Information Technology Implementation Assistance in South Carolina) is the officially designated Regional Extension Center tasked with helping primary care physicians take advantage of the incentive payment program. CITIA-SC, part of Health Sciences South Carolina, offers **free** consultations about:

- Effective strategies to select, implement and meaningfully use EHR technology
- Upgrading existing EMR systems and needs assessment
- Practice workflow redesign

- Meaningful use and other requirements of the incentive payment program
- Preferred EHR vendor products
- Best practices regarding privacy and security of personal health information

Please note, primary care physicians who currently have an EMR system are encouraged to contact CITIA-SC to ensure it meets current federal certification standards, a condition of receiving the incentive payments.

To contact CITIA-SC, please visit [www.citiasc.org](http://www.citiasc.org). Remember, CITIA-SC is a free service sponsored by HSSC and no purchases are required. For more information, please contact 803-576-5917.

## **Other Resources**

Many other resources are available to providers who want to learn more about the incentive payment program.

To find an extensive overview of the incentive program, complete with timetables and specific meaningful use requirements, visit [www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms)

To learn how to connect to the statewide Health Information Exchange, a requirement to attain meaningful use, visit [www.schiex.org](http://www.schiex.org)

To find out more about SCDHHS' upcoming Health Information Technology Summit, visit [www.scdhhs.gov/hit](http://www.scdhhs.gov/hit)

For physician practices and organizations that would like to request additional educational materials about the incentive program or arrange a personal presentation, visit [www.palmettohit.net](http://www.palmettohit.net)

**NOTE:** To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please register at <http://bulletin.scdhhs.gov/>.  
To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select "Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)" for instructions.