

July 25, 2016

MEDICAID ALERT

TO: Dentists, Hospitals, Managed Care, Other Medical Professionals, Physicians and Vision Providers

SUBJECT: 2016: Last Chance to Begin Participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Program

In recent years, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has worked to support the increase of eligible providers' adoption and use of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) and health information exchange (HIE) through the South Carolina Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program. This program provides incentive payments to eligible professionals (EP) and eligible hospitals (EH) as they adopt, implement, upgrade (AIU) or demonstrate meaningful use (MU) of CEHRT.

Program Year 2016 is the final year in which EP and EH can begin to participate in the South Carolina Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. There are many benefits to program participation, including the following:

- Providers that are eligible to participate may receive up to \$63,750 for full participation in the program. This includes a payment in the first participation year of \$21,250 to AIU to a CEHRT system, or to demonstrate MU of CEHRT.
- Providers can achieve measurable improvements in patient health care delivery and performance to promote better patient outcomes through the use of CEHRT:
 - Diagnostics and patient safety
 - Practice efficiencies and cost savings, including documentation and coding
 - Care coordination, including electronic exchange of clinical information with other designated providers
 - Patient participation/self-management

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) includes Title XIII of Division A and Title IV for Division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Pursuant to HITECH, funding is made available in incentive payments for the adoption and meaningful use of CEHRT.

To participate in the South Carolina Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, an EP must be one of the following five types of Medicaid providers: physician (MD, DO or optometrist); dentist; certified nurse-

midwife; nurse practitioner; or physician assistant practicing in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) led by a physician assistant. Other criteria must be met, including Medicaid or Needy Individual patient volume thresholds. To see if you are eligible, check the [Medicaid State Information Eligibility](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/MedicaidStateInfo.html) requirements (available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/MedicaidStateInfo.html>) and then contact the SCDHHS Division of Health Information Technology (HIT) at HITSC@scdhhs.gov.

For additional information, please visit the program's website, www.scdhhs.gov/hit.