

OREGON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION • OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

WHAT'S YOUR ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD 'MEANINGFUL USE' IQ?

Happy days are here again. The U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) is offering monetary incentives to hospitals and certain “eligible professionals” who use electronic health record systems (EHRs). To merit the payout,* one must demonstrably fulfill criteria known as “*Meaningful Use*.” Lest you be consigned to a meaningless life, we tender this modest tool to assess your knowledge.

QUIZ (ANSWERS FOLLOW)

- Meaningful Use* consists of:
 - e-prescribing;
 - psycho-spiritual theory associated with positive psychology;
 - electronic exchange of health information with other practitioners;
 - electronic submission of clinical quality data;
 - all but (b).
- Stages 1, 2 and 3 refer to:
 - grief, denial and anger;
 - the rocket launch sequence for Apollo space missions;
 - the approximate 2-year intervals across which the *Meaningful Use* ante will increase along with (CMS hopes) EHR adoption;
 - all of the above and more.
- Meaningful Use* can only be met if you use “certified” EHRs. You can tell your EHR is certified by:
 - flipping it over and looking at its underside;
 - asking a teenager;
 - visiting <http://onc-chpl.force.com/ehrcert>;
 - asking a teenager to visit the aforementioned site.
- The number of *Meaningful Use* objectives that must be met during Stage 1 to qualify for a Medicaid incentive payment is:
 - 25 (required);
 - 20 (15 required and 5 optional);
 - 15 (10 required and 5 optional);
 - 10 (required).
- Which of the following professionals are *not* eligible for the Medicaid incentive program?
 - nurse practitioners;
 - naturopaths;
 - certified nurse-midwives;
 - dentists.
- True or False: If you work as part of a practice, Medicaid patient volume may be calculated at the group level, but incentive payments are available to individual providers.
- The minimum proportion of Medicaid patients a provider must see to be eligible for the incentive is:
 - 2.5% for pediatricians and 5% for other providers;
 - 20% for pediatricians and 30% for other providers;
 - 80% for all providers;
 - 20% for all providers.
- True or False: Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) patients do *not* count toward the Medicaid patient volume criteria.
- True or False: A patient covered by *both* Medicare and Medicaid can be included as part of your Medicaid patient volume.
- The only *Public Health Meaningful Use* objective that Oregon providers must meet during Stage 1 is:
 - generating a list of patients by condition;
 - submitting data to the immunization registry;
 - submitting syndromic surveillance data;
 - submitting electronic laboratory results.
- The earliest Oregon providers can apply for a Medicaid Incentive is:
 - Late Spring/Early Summer 2011;
 - Late Summer/Early Fall 2011;
 - Spring 2012;
 - Winter 2011/2012.

- True or False: You must fulfill the minimum number of *Meaningful Use* criteria before you can apply for a Medicaid incentive.
- True or False: Even if you qualify for both Medicaid and Medicare incentives, you can only apply for one.
- It’s too late to participate in the Medicaid incentive program after:
 - 2014;
 - 2015;
 - 2016;
 - Never — it’s an *entitlement* program.

ANSWERS

- (e) is correct of course. *Meaningful Use* means demonstrating that you’ve used EHR in ways that can be measured.
- (d) Although, for purposes of this quiz we were hoping you’d answer (c). Give yourself a point for either answer.
- (c) Visit the Office of the National Coordinator’s Certified HIT Product List web site for more information. Give yourself ½ point if you knew this, but figured you’d need a teenager’s help to get there so you answered (d).
- (b) To receive the incentive, you must meet 20 objectives — 15 “core” (in English, “required”) and 5 of 10 from the “menu” (in English, “optional”).†
- (b) Naturopaths are not eligible for Medicaid incentives. Physicians, nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, dentists, and physician assistants who lead a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) are eligible. Also of note: neither optometrists, podiatrists nor chiropractors qualify for the Medicaid incentive, but they may qualify for the Medicare incentive!!
- True! Medicaid patient volume may be calculated at the group or individual level but incentives are given to individual providers (provided each successfully demonstrates *Meaningful Use*). Eligible professionals can only

† One of the 5 menu set items must be a Public Health measure, see question/answer to #10.

* Eligible professionals can receive up to \$44,000, or up to \$48,400 if practicing in a Health Provider Shortage Area if they go with the Medicare incentive, or up to \$63,750 from Medicaid.



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receive one incentive payment each year, regardless of how many practices they are part of (and, if they're 90% hospital-based they aren't eligible at all).

7. (b) To be eligible, at least 30% of your patients must be Medicaid recipients; unless you're a pediatrician in which case your Medicaid patient volume need only be 20%. If you practice predominantly in a FQHC or RHC and 30% of your patient volume is attributable to *needy*[‡] individuals, you also qualify.
8. True. CHIP patients do *not* count toward the Medicaid patient volume criteria (unless you work in a FQHC or RHC). Sorry.
9. True. If Medicaid paid for any part of the services rendered, premiums, co-payments, or cost-sharing to an individual on any given day, that counts as a Medicaid encounter.
10. (b) During Stage 1, 2011–2012, submission of data to the state's immunization registry[§] is the only *Public Health Meaningful Use* criterion required for providers. If you do not give vaccinations, you are exempt from this measure and do not have any Public Health objectives to meet in Stage 1. (For the record, generating a list of patients by condition is not considered a Public Health measure;

‡ "Needy persons" are those who: receive assistance under Title XIX (Medicaid); receive assistance under Title XXI (CHIP); receive uncompensated care; or receive care charged on a sliding scale based on their ability to pay.

§ http://immlert.org/MEANINGFUL_USE/

and hospitals can choose any of the three Public Health measures.)

11. (b) Details are still being worked out. For more information on the Medicaid Health Information Technology Project, visit: www.medicaidehrincentsives.oregon.gov
12. False. To receive a Medicaid incentive in the first year, you must adopt (i.e., prove acquisition of an EHR system); implement (i.e., prove that you have been trained to enter or have already begun to enter patient demographics); upgrade (i.e., add new functionality to meet the definition of certified technology); or demonstrate *Meaningful Use* in your first year of participation. You must then successfully demonstrate *Meaningful Use* in each subsequent year of participation.
13. True.[¶] Even if you're eligible, you must *choose* which incentive program to participate in when you register.^{**} You may switch programs, but only once, after your first incentive payment is initiated. For most providers, the biggest bang for the buck will be the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program (unless, of course, you're a chiropractor, podiatrist, or optometrist).

¶Hospitals *can* participate in both incentive programs. So, if you are a hospital (...right...), and answered False, give yourself a point.

** <https://ehrincentsives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action/>

14. (c) The last year to initiate participation in the Medicaid Incentive Program is 2016. The program will officially end in 2021. The sooner you start, the better off you'll be.

SCORE

If you got 11–14 correct, rejoice: your life is almost certainly more meaningful than ours. We had to look most of the answers up — twice. If you got 6–10 correct, consider yourself above average and on your way to being a full-fledged participant in this brave new world of health information exchange. If you got 5 or fewer correct, you are in good company, but we wouldn't go around attesting^{††} that you're meaningful. Please re-read all of the answers and try again. We did.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

A lot of information to ingest in such a short read, we know. But there are a lot of resources^{‡‡} out there to help you understand which EHR or hosted solution is right for you, how to meet *Meaningful Use* objectives, or how to apply for an incentive. Don't hesitate to get in touch with us at medicaid.EHRincentsives@state.or.us — we'll do our best to steer you in the right direction.

†† During Stage 1, you need only attest that you've met *Meaningful Use*.

‡‡ www.medicaidehrincentsives.oregon.gov and www.ohitec.org