

## News release

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### **Grants available to help health care providers move to electronic health records**

Effective this week there are federal grants available to Oregon hospitals and health care providers who serve Medicaid patients that will help them implement electronic health records. The goal for the grants is to provide incentives for the move to confidential records that can be more easily shared among providers and patients.

“Adopting electronic records can help innovate the way we coordinate care in Oregon,” said Lisa Parker, interim director of Oregon’s Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program. “By allowing doctors and patients immediate access to their private and up-to-date health record, we can avoid things such as repetitive tests and increase efficiency in clinics.”

Health care providers eligible for the program can receive up to \$63,750 over a six-year period. Hospital grants will vary based on many metrics, including Medicaid hospital stays and total hospital discharges. In order to receive a payment in 2011, providers must apply no later than Feb. 29, 2012, and no later than Nov. 30, 2011 for hospitals. Eligibility depends on the percentage of Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan clients a provider serves and other factors.

Interested hospitals and health care providers can find eligibility and application information by visiting [MedicaidEHRIncentives.oregon.gov](http://MedicaidEHRIncentives.oregon.gov) or by calling 503-945-5898.

The Oregon Health Authority’s Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) administers Oregon’s Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, moving forward Oregon’s drive for better health, better care and lower costs. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program is part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, encouraging states to make the switch to electronic records.

"We hope all eligible providers will apply for this program," Parker said. "Electronic health records make things easier for patients and their doctors, improve the quality and coordination of care, and lower costs for the Oregon Health Plan."