

DOCTORS OFFICE SYSTEMS

BECKER, INC.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

President Obama ran for office on the theme “change”. Now we are beginning to see what “change” in healthcare means. Is it...



or



Economic Stimulus Bill of 2009:

The new “Stimulus Bill” provides incentives for physicians who “use electronic medical records effectively”. While all of the details have not been worked out, this means the government isn’t going to help pay for your EHR/EMR software until after you purchase an EHR/EMR and actually can show you are using it in a “meaningful” manner. It also appears those physicians who have already purchased an EHR (in previous years) will need to show they are using it in a meaningful matter .

We are not the Obama Stimulus Plan health care experts but from what we can decipher, this is supposedly how it may work. As we learn more of the details we will try to keep you up to date on this.

The Stimulus Package

Physicians must implement a certified solution with meaningful results.

- Certified has not been defined but speculation is **CCHIT certified**.
- Meaningful has not been defined but speculation is:
 - o Be able to capture quality of care data (i.e. **PQRI**)
 - o Support clinical **data exchange** between different software systems.

(ex: clinic to lab, clinic to clinic, etc. = “interoffice operatability” is the term we use in the software business)

- o Be able to create electronic notes including **electronic prescription writing**
- o Possible additional qualifications.

Time Period (2010 – 2015)

- Incentives begin in 2011
- Funding is for meaningful use in 2011. Purchase in 2011 is not use.
- You will need your data, notes, electronic prescriptions, etc. already in your system by 2011 to get the first incentive payment.
- Penalties for non-use begin in 2015.

Incentives Appear To Be (up to):

	Adopt 2010	Adopt 2011	Adopt 2012	Adopt 2013	Adopt 2014
Pays in 2011	\$18,000	0	0	0	0
Pays in 2012	\$12,000	\$18,000	0	0	0
Pays in 2013	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	0	0
Pays in 2014	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	0
Pays in 2015	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	0
Pays in 2016	0	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	0
TOTAL (up to)	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$39,000	\$35,000	0
If In Physician Shortage Area	\$44,400	\$48,400	\$42,900	\$38,500	0

Penalties for Non-use Appear To Be:

- 2015 - 1% reduction in Medicare Payments
- 2016 - 2% reduction in Medicare Payments
- 2017 + - 3% reduction in Medicare Payments



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