



# North Carolina Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program Eligible Professional Attestation Guide

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# Disclaimer

The NC Medicaid Program is providing this guide as reference for eligible professionals (EP). Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this guide at the time of posting, the Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program changes regularly.

It is the responsibility of each EP representative to remain up-to-date on program changes. You can obtain additional information by contacting the NC-MIPS CSC EVC Center by phone, fax, or email.

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# **Incentive Payment Program Overview**

## **Background**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented, through provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), incentive payments to eligible professionals (EP) and eligible hospitals (EH), including critical access hospitals (CAHs), participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs that are meaningful users of certified Electronic Health Records (EHR) technology. The incentive payments are not a reimbursement, but are intended to encourage EPs and EHs to adopt, implement, or upgrade certified EHR technology and use it in a meaningful manner.

# Incentive Payment Program Goals

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented a national program for these incentive payments. Goals for the program include:

- Enhancement of care coordination and patient safety
- · Reduction of paperwork and improve efficiencies
- Facilitation of electronic information sharing across providers, payers, and state lines
- Enablement of data sharing using state Health Information Exchange (HIE) and the National Health Information Network (NHIN).

Achieving these goals will improve health outcomes, facilitate access, simplify care and reduce costs of health care nationwide.

# Eligible Medical Professionals

Eligible medical professionals who may qualify for incentive payments must be meaningful users of EHR technology and participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs. These professionals include:

- Eligible professionals (EP)
- Eligible hospitals (EH)
- Critical access hospitals (CAHs)

These professionals must also meet other criteria, such as patient volume, to qualify for incentive payments. This guide explains the eligibility requirements as you work through the program process.

### **Incentive Payment Program Overview (continued)**

# Register for Incentive Payments

Eligible professionals and eligible hospitals must register in order to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs. **Registration began January 3, 2011** with the CMS Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System. The system provides general and detailed information on the programs, including tabs that explain the payment process, eligibility, meaningful use, certified EHR technology, and frequently asked questions.

# EHR Incentive Program Process Summary

Below is a summary of the EHR Incentive Program Process Summary:

1. Beginning January 3, 2011, providers may enroll in the program with CMS through the CMS Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System. The link to this site is: <a href="https://ehrincentives.cms.gov">https://ehrincentives.cms.gov</a>.

**NOTE:** You must be enrolled with CMS prior to accessing the NC Medicaid Incentive Payment System (NC-MIPS).

2. Beginning March 1, 2011, providers can log into the NC Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment System (NC-MIPS) to complete the North Carolina-specific registration and attestation.

The link to NC-MIPS is: <a href="https://ncmips.nctracks.nc.gov/">https://ncmips.nctracks.nc.gov/</a>. The State reviews the registrations, determines eligibility and communicates the results back to you.

3. Beginning April 1, 2011, qualified providers may begin receiving incentive payments. Additionally, documentation to support the attestation must be available for audit on April 1, 2011. The appeals process also begins on that date.

# **Using this Guide**

#### Introduction

This guide helps you to understand all of the information needed to attest to your eligibility to participate in the NC Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program. It provides step-by-step instructions to complete the attestation phase of the NC Medicaid Incentive Payment Program.

### **Unsure of Eligibility?**

If you are unsure of your eligibility to participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment program, the State of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has developed an online tool to help you determine your eligibility. This tool can be accessed at:

#### http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/provider/ehr.htm

### Login ID

To access the provider portal, you need a North Carolina Identity Management (NCID) user name and password. NCID is the standard identity management and access service used by the state. If you do not have an NCID account, please go to the NCID website and register at:

#### https://ncid.nc.gov

If you need assistance with setting up an NCID account, or for login or password assistance, please call the NCID Customer Support Center at 800-722-3946 or 919-754-6000

### Before You Begin

Before you begin the attestation process, please read the instructions and gather all necessary information to complete the attestation process. The portal will save unfinished attestations for 30 days, during which time you will be able to return and complete your submission.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** if you are in a group practice, it is important that all EPs reach consensus on how to report their Medicaid patient volumes before the first EP submits his/her attestation. Refer to <u>Determining Medicaid Patient Volume</u> for important information before you begin this process.

### Other Documents You Need

To finalize attestation, you need the following documents to be emailed, faxed, or mailed with your <u>final application</u>.

- A copy of your license (recommended)
- Documentation illustrating that you have "adopted, implemented, or upgraded" certified EHR technology, i.e., purchase order or contract (recommended)

### Screen Design

Each screen has navigation links on the left side to other screens. Many screens have **Previous** or **Next** buttons that allow you to navigate between screens.

# How to Log In

# **Logging Into MIPS**

NC-MIPS is a web-based portal that you access through the Internet. You will first need to open a browser, such as Explorer or Firefox before you can log in.





From your browser access:

### https://ncmips.nctracks.nc.gov/

**TIP:** You may want to save this link in your Favorites or Bookmarks for easy access in the future.

The **Welcome Screen** displays and provides basic information on the attestation process.







Login

Text Size:

#### Welcome

Welcome to the North Carolina Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Portal

This portal will guide you through the process and provide all of the needed information for you to allest to your eligibility to participate in this program. Before you begin, please read the instructions and gather all necessary information to complete the attestation process. The portal will save unfinished affectations for 30 days, during which time you will be able to return and complete your submission.

We have compiled an Attestation Guide to provide you with the information to gather necessary data and complete the attestation process. The guide includes

- instructions on gathering practice site. Patient encounter and other information.
   Definitions related to this program.
- · Sample screens to assist in navigation through data entry

If you are affiliated with a Group Practice, all members of that practice must use the same methodology for determining the Medicaid Patient percentage for the practice. Either every member of the group practice will use his/her individual Medicaid Patient encounters to determine eligibility, or every member of the group practice will use the practice's Patient encounter numbers for this determination.

Additionally, during affectation, you will be able to use Medicaid encounter totals from different states for determining your Medicaid Patient percentage. If you plan to use data from other states, please be advised that this data is subject to verification and the verification process may delay your incentive payment.

The free Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view and print PDF files.

If you're an eligible professional (EP), please review the EP Attestation Guide (65 KB)

Providers with questions regarding the completion of the online attestation should contact the NC-MIPS CSC EVC Center by phone (886-844-1113), fax (866-844-1382), or email (NCMIPS@csc.com)

#### First Time User - Account Setup Account Login

Contact us | Disclaimer | 2/28/2011 - 9:38 AM

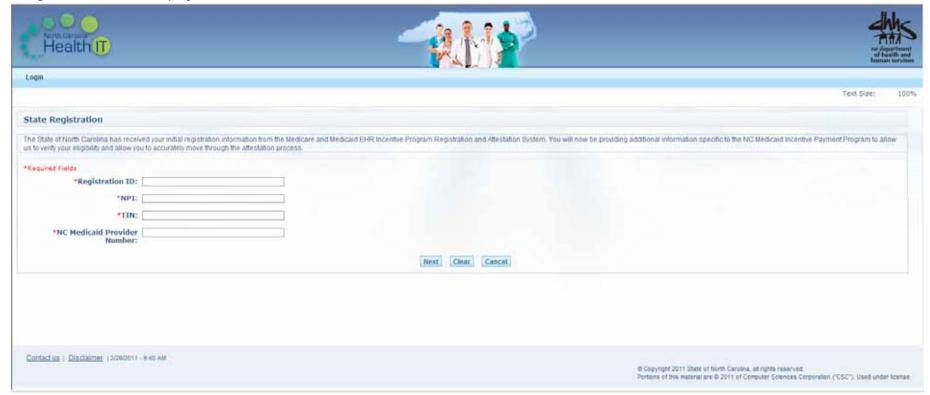
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# **State Registration**

# First Log In Session

If this is the first time you are logging in, you must register. Click the **Register** link at the bottom left of the screen and the **State Registration** screen displays.

# State Registration Screen Display



# Registration Information

To register, fill in the following information. The system will store this information for future sessions.

- Registration ID: This is your registration ID from the CMS Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System
- NPI: This is your National Provider Identification Number.
- TIN: This is your tax identifier number.
- MPN: This is your NC Medicaid Provider Number

When you are finished, click **Next** and the **Status Screen** displays.

# NCID Account Information Screen

# Other Log In Sessions

After you have registered in the first session, click the **NCID Login** link to access the system. The **NCID Account Information** Screen will display the following fields.

1. Enter your **Username**, which is your NCID user name and password.

**Note:** NCID is the standard identity management and access service used by the State. If you do not have an NCID account, please go to the NCID website at <a href="https://ncid.nc.gov">https://ncid.nc.gov</a> to register.

2. Enter your NCID password and click **Submit**. The **Status Screen** displays.

### NCID Account Information Screen Display



# Status Screen

#### Introduction

The **Status Screen** provides a summary of your information over the past 24 months. Please review this information. If you have changes to your registration or demographic information, you must make the changes within the CMS Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System. You can access this system at <a href="https://ehrincentives.cms.gov">https://ehrincentives.cms.gov</a>.

**NOTE:** All information within the CMS Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System **must match** the information within the NC Medicaid provider database. To update your information within the NC Medicaid provider database please go to the NC Tracks website, at <a href="http://www.nctracks.nc.gov/provider/cis.html">http://www.nctracks.nc.gov/provider/cis.html</a> to download the appropriate change form.

# Registration Summary

- 1. Verify your registration information for accuracy.
- 2. Read your summary information, which indicates your status in the NC Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

# Resuming the Attestation Process

3. Click the **Proceed** button to begin your attestation **or** to resume the attestation process.

**NOTE:** The system saves unfinished attestations for 30 days, during which time you can return to the system to complete your submission.

### Status Screen Display



# License Screen

# **Entering License Information**

As part of the attestation process, NC Medicaid is required to validate EP license information, including:

- License type
- Issuing state
- License number
- Current effective date
- Expiration date
- 1. Enter the information in the fields provided.
- 2. After entering your license information, select either:
  - Reset Page to clear your information and re-enter it
  - Save and Return Later to save your information, you may continue or return later
  - Cancel Attestation to end the attestation process
- 3. After selecting **Save and Return Later**, click the **Next** button to continue the attestation process.

### License Screen Display



# **Practicing Predominantly Screen**

#### Introduction

Fill in this screen to indicate whether you practiced predominantly at a Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC), School-Based Health Center (SBHC), or Rural Health Center (RHC) in the previous calendar year.

# Including Needy Individuals

An EP who practices predominantly at an FQHC/SBHC/RHC is defined as an EP for whom the clinical location for more than 50% of his/her total patient encounters during any continuous 6-month period in the preceding calendar year (2010) occurred at an FQHC/SBHC/RHC.

Providers who have practiced predominantly within an FQHC/SBHC/RHC during any continuous 6-month period in the preceding calendar year (2010) will have the ability to include needy individuals to meet the Medicaid patient volume eligibility threshold.

# Needy Individuals Definition

A needy individual is defined as an individual who received medical assistance from NC Medicaid or NC Health Choice; were furnished uncompensated care; or were furnished services at either no cost or reduced cost based on a sliding scale determined by the individual's ability to pay.

# Total Patient Encounters Definition

Total number of patient encounters for the specified time period.

- 1. Read the screen definitions of FQHC/SBHC/RHC and determine if you meet the practice criteria:
  - If you practiced predominantly at a FQHC/SBHC/RHC, select the **YES** button and then click **Next** button. The <u>Group Practice Affiliation Screen</u> displays.
  - If you **did not** practice predominantly at a FQHC/SBHC/RHC, select the **No** button and then click **Next** button. The <u>Hospital Based Screen</u> displays.

#### Practicing Predominantly Screen Display



# **Hospital Based Screen**

#### Introduction

On this screen you are asked whether you provided 90% or more of your Medicaid covered patient encounters in a hospital-based setting. A hospital-based EP is not eligible to participate in the NC Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program.

# Hospital-Based Provider Definition

A hospital-based provider is defined as a provider who furnishes 90% or more of his/her Medicaid covered patient encounters in a hospital setting in the calendar year (2010) preceding the payment year (2011).

# Medicaid Covered Patient Encounter Definition

Medicaid covered patient encounter is defined as a patient encounter where Medicaid or a Medicaid demonstration project under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act paid for part or all of the service.

- If you provided 90% or more of your Medicaid covered patient encounters in a hospital setting, select the **Yes** button. You are ineligible to participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program. A message indicating ineligibility will be displayed on the screen.
- If you did not provide 90% or more of your Medicaid covered patient encounters in a hospital setting, select the **No** button. The Group Practice Affiliation screen will be displayed.

### Hospital Based Screen Display



# **Group Practice Affiliation Screen**

#### Introduction

On this screen, indicate whether you are affiliated with a group practice. This determination impacts how you will calculate your Medicaid patient volumes. To be eligible to participate in the NC EHR Incentive Payment Program, EPs are required to have a minimum of 30% of <u>total patient encounters</u> attributed to Medicaid patients or 20% if you are a pediatrician.

**NOTE:** It is important to read this entire section to select the appropriate <u>Medicaid patient volume</u> for you and your entire group. It is also important to understand the following definitions when completing the Group Practice Affiliation screen.

# Patient Encounter Definition

A single patient encounter is one or more services rendered by an EP on any one day to an individual patient.

# Medicaid Covered Patient Encounter Definition

A patient encounter where Medicaid or a Medicaid demonstration project under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act paid for part or all of the service.

Total Patient Encounters

Total number of patient encounters for the specified time period.

# EHR Reporting Period

To determine your Medicaid patient volumes, select a continuous 90-day period within the *previous* calendar year as your EHR reporting period. You will provide <u>patient encounter</u> information for that period, which includes both <u>Medicaid</u> <u>covered patient encounter</u> information as well as <u>total patient encounters</u> to determine the percentage of your total patient encounters attributed to Medicaid.

# Determining Medicaid Patient Volume

There are two methodologies for determining patient volumes for EPs, an **individual methodology** and a **group methodology**.

- The individual methodology uses the individual EP's patient encounters to determine Medicaid patient volumes. All EPs not affiliated with a group practice will use individual methodology.
- The group methodology uses the patient encounter information for the **entire group practice** to determine patient volumes. Group practices may use either individual or group methodology for determining Medicaid patient volumes for affiliated EPs, however, **all EPs affiliated with the group practice must use the same methodology for the payment year**.

### **Group Practice Affiliation Screen (continued)**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you are affiliated with a group practice, the first EP affiliated with the group practice that attests to the affiliation will set the methodology for the entire group practice. Following that first attestation, every subsequent EP from the group that submits his/her attestation must use that methodology. It is important that the members of the group practice reach consensus among their affiliated EPs on the methodology prior to the first attestation.

# Patient Volume Reporting Period

After selecting the appropriate individual or group practice methodology, select the start date of a continuous 90-day period from the preceding calendar year (2010) for your patient volume reporting period. Use the calendar icon to select dates more easily.

Enter dates in the MM/DD/YYYY format.

# Group Practice Affiliation

Under Group Practice Affiliation, indicate if you were affiliated with one or more group practices during the 90-day period.

If you were affiliated with a group practice during your selected 90-day EHR reporting period, you may use the patient encounters of the entire group practice in establishing your Medicaid patient volumes. To be affiliated with a group practice, you must have at least one Medicaid claim with the group practice during the EHR reporting period.

Enter the NC MPNs and the group practice names for all group practices with which you were affiliated during the 90-day period. If you were affiliated with one or more group practices within North Carolina during your selected EHR reporting period, you will enter the NC Medicaid provider numbers and group names of each practice.

# Deleting or Adding a Group Practice

To delete a group practice, click the red X sign on the bottom right of the screen.

To add a group practice, click the green plus sign on the bottom right of the screen.



## **Group Practice Affiliation Screen (continued)**

# **Entering MPN**

If you are entering the NC MPN for a FQHC/RHC/SBHC, please enter only the first six numeric digits. The state requires this information to ensure that all EPs affiliated with a group practice use the same patient volume methodology.

**NOTE:** If one of the group practices listed has decided to use the group methodology and you wish to use your individual encounters to determine Medicaid patient volumes, the encounters associated with that group practice must be excluded.

Select **Yes** or **No** to indicate whether you were affiliated with an out-of-state group practice during the 90-day period.

Click the **Next** button to continue to the <u>EHR Reporting Period Screen</u>.

### Group Practice Affiliation Screen Display



# **EHR Reporting Period Screen**

#### Introduction

On this screen you provide the total <u>Medicaid covered patient encounters</u> and <u>total patient encounter</u> totals for your selected 90-day period to determine whether you meet the Medicaid patient volume requirements for the program. To be eligible to participate in the EHR incentive payment program, EPs are required to have a minimum of 30% of total patient encounters attributed to Medicaid patients or 20% if you are a Pediatrician.

Notice that this screen is populated with the:

- 90-day period you previously selected
- Affiliated NC MPN where you practiced during that 90-day period
- Affiliated group practice names

For each MPN listed, enter the total Medicaid covered patient encounters and total patient encounters. These totals will produce a calculation at the bottom of the screen that indicates your percentage of patient encounters attributable to Medicaid.

**NOTE:** You must meet the 30% threshold to be eligible to participate in the incentive payment program. If you are a pediatrician, the minimum threshold is 20%.

When you have completed with this screen, click the **Next** button and the <u>EHR Adopt, Implement or Upgrade Screen</u> will be displayed.

### EHR Reporting Period Screen Display



# EHR Adopt, Implement or Upgrade Screen

#### Introduction

On this screen, indicate via the check boxes the specific actions you took to adopt, implement or upgrade a certified EHR technology.

When completed, click the **Next** button and the <u>Attestation Process Screen</u> displays.

EHR Adopt, Implement or Update Screen Display



# **Attestation Process Screen**

### Introduction

This screen confirms that you have completed the attestation process.

Click the Next button and the Submission of Attestation Screen will be displayed.

### Attestation Process Screen Display



# **Submission of Attestation Screen**

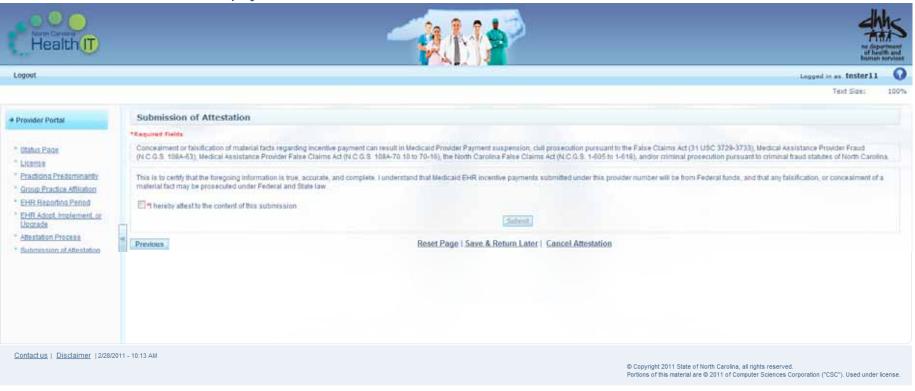
#### Introduction

On this screen you are required to testify that all information you have provided is true. Read this screen carefully before checking the box to attest to the content of this submission.

Use the Previous button to return to any prior screens to edit your entries, or use the navigation links on the left side of the screen to access any screen.

When completed, click the **Submit** button.

### Submission of Attestation Screen Display



# **Print Attestation Screen**

### Introduction

Follow the steps below to finalize your attestation:

- 1. Print the attestation documents from the system. Click the **Print** button.
- 2. Copy the documents for your records.
- 3. Sign and date your attestation page.
- 4. Include the following documents with your submission (recommended)
  - A copy of your license (recommended)
  - Documentation illustrating that your have "adopted, implemented, or upgraded" certified EHR technology, i.e., purchase order or contract.
- 5. Mail, fax, or scan and email the documents to the parties indicated on the screen.
- 6. Retain your copies for reference.

#### Print Attestation Screen Display

