



*MaineCare Services*  
An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services



## **The MaineCare Initiative for Electronic Health Information Technology**

## Program Overview

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- The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) established a three-prong initiative that provides significant incentive payments to providers and hospitals to improve their use of computerized Electronic Health Records (EHR):
  1. A state coordinator for a state's overall electronic health care system
  2. A Medicaid program run by the State—Office of MaineCare Services
  3. A Medicare program run by the Medicare office (federal)

# Highlights of the Incentive Payment Program

- Incentive payments are paid to providers and hospitals for using computerized Electronic Health Records that are certified to protect confidential patient information and provide the technology for providers to use the information in meaningful ways to better treat patients.

Type	Payments to eligible MaineCare providers and hospitals over the life of the program
Eligible Providers	\$63,750 in Medicaid payments per provider <u>OR</u> \$44,000 in Medicare payments per provider
Hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals get <u>BOTH</u> Medicaid and Medicare payments.</li> <li>• Payments are hospital-specific based on hospital charges and the number of Medicaid and Medicare “bed-days.”</li> <li>• Report estimates \$145 million total combined Medicaid and Medicare payments would be spread across Maine hospitals.*</li> </ul>

\* Baker, Newman, Noyes. (July, 2010). *An Assessment of Electronic Health Records Meaningful Use Incentive Payments: Maine Hospitals.*

## Eligibility for Program

- The provider must be one of the types of providers that were identified in the law; and
- The provider has a certain percentage of patients that are MaineCare.

Entity eligible for the MaineCare program	% of patients that need to be Medicaid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Physicians</li> <li>•Dentists</li> <li>•Certified Nurse Midwives</li> <li>•Physician Assistants (PA)</li> <li>•Nurse Practitioners</li> </ul>	30%
Pediatricians	At least 20%
Hospitals	10%

## Number of Potential Eligible Providers

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- Based on the list of provider types and estimates of the percentage of patients that are MaineCare Members, it is estimated that between 800 and 1000 providers will be eligible
- There will be additional providers that will qualify for the Medicare payments.
- The vast majority of the 39 Maine hospitals will be eligible for payments

## Timeline of MaineCare Incentive Payment Program

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- January 2010: Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) approved Maine's pre-planning document
- January 2011: Maine submitted its final plan to CMS for approval
- Late Summer/Early Fall 2011: MaineCare is targeting to launch the program and begin processing applications
- Mid-Winter 2011/2012: MaineCare expects to begin issuing payments as early as mid-winter

# Benefits of the Incentive Payment Program for Maine

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- Private/Public sectors benefit as payments go to health care providers and hospitals who work directly with private sector companies to develop and implement technology
- Incentive payments can reimburse providers and hospitals who have already implemented health information technology
- Incentive payments are 100% federal funding; administration costs are 90% federal funding (10% state share can be funded through 'in-kind' contributions)
- Flexibility
  - Providers and hospitals choose the software and type of technology that best meets their needs
  - After states and providers gave feedback to federal agencies, program was recently revised to make it more administratively simple and efficient to implement and operate
- Funds and the new technology particularly benefit rural states, like Maine, to improve health outcomes and efficiency of health care system
- MaineCare is part of collaborative effort with other public/private partnerships in Maine that leverage and maximize use of funds and return on investment

# Where to Get Program Information

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## Primary Contact--Submit Inquiries and Get Answers

### \_\_\_\_\_ MaineCare HIT Webpage \_\_\_\_\_

- Information on Maine's EHR Incentive Program
- <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/HIT/index.html>

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### More Information:

#### \_\_\_\_\_ State HIT Webpage \_\_\_\_\_

- Information about Statewide HIT Initiatives
- <http://www.maine.gov/hit/>

#### \_\_\_\_\_ CMS EHR Program Website \_\_\_\_\_

- Information about the Incentive Programs, including Registration and Meaningful Use
- <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/>