



**UPDATE: Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program
December 2012**

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing continues to work on implementing the Colorado Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, through which eligible health care professionals and hospitals can receive incentive payments for adoption and meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

Medicaid Program Status Update

The Department has met several milestones integral to the launch of the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program in Colorado. Most significantly - the approval of the State Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan (SMHP) by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the launch of the Colorado Provider Outreach Page.

Given recent developments to the Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, the Department anticipates the following timeline for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program:

<i>Event</i>	<i>Expected Date</i>
CMS Registration Opens for Colorado Participants	Feb 2012
Colorado Registration & Attestation System live, Medicaid Provider Registration Begins	May 2012
First Incentive Payments Issued to Eligible Providers who Successfully Attest to Adopting, Implementing, or Upgrading Certified EHRs	June 2012

SMHP Approved

Before the Department could begin implementing the **Colorado Registration & Attestation System (CO R&A)**, it was required that CMS approve the SMHP. The SMHP describes programmatic and systematic details for how the Department plans to implement the Colorado EHR Incentive Program and outlines requirements for eligibility, program integrity and the payment process. The latest version of the SMHP can be found on the [Department's website](#).

Since the SMHP has been approved the Department has been working on completing the implementation plan for the **CO R&A**. Implementation includes building connections to the existing Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) and to the CMS National Registration & Attestation System as well as providing a portal thorough which eligible providers will attest to their eligibility and to meeting the Adopt, Implement, or Upgrade requirements necessary to receive incentive payments. The CO R&A will provide verification and auditing checks against existing provider data and records to ensure program integrity.

Since the SMHP was approved in early November, the Department anticipates that the CO R&A will be live by **May 2012** with the first payments being issued **June 2012**. Starting the program in 2012 in no way decreases

the amount of incentive an eligible provider can receive from participation in the program. The entire 6 years of participation is still in effect.

Medical Services Board Rules

The Department has drafted and received approval through the Medical Services Board for the appropriate rules needed for full implementation of the program. Stakeholders interested in reviewing the final rules that have been permanently adopted can visit the [Department's website](#) and click on the link for Document 2: MSB 11-05-26-A.

Provider Outreach Page (POP) LIVE

The Provider Outreach Page (POP) for the Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program has launched and can be accessed at <http://co.ara incentive.com>. The POP is meant to serve as a central hub of resources for eligible providers and hospitals to learn more about the Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program requirements and applicable certified EHR technology. Additionally, the POP will provide program participants with detailed resources to help them prepare for registration and attestation (R&A) to the program when the CO R&A system launches in 2012. These resources include:

- CMS program overview and FAQs
- ONC resources for choosing/verifying certified EHR technology
- Colorado-specific FAQs
- Link to the HCPF website
- Links to the CORHIO & CO-REC websites
- Checklists for R&A preparation (both federal and state)
- Eligibility worksheets
- Attestation worksheets
- Medicaid EHR Incentive Coordinator contact information

The launch of the POP is a huge step in ensuring that program stakeholders across the state are aware of the Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program requirements, eligibility, and R&A processes. If used effectively it will allow providers to be fully prepared with all the required information needed for the next steps in the R&A process and ultimately, receiving their incentive payment. Please visit the POP by following this [link](#) or typing <http://co.ara incentive.com> into your browser.

Medicaid Program Point of Contact and Partnerships

The Department has partnered with CORHIO (the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization) and the CO-REC (Colorado Regional Extension Center) program to provide program coordination and assist with provider communications and outreach regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. CO-REC will provide a central point of contact for eligible providers, partners, and other interested parties on requirements, processes, and questions regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Currently more than 2,100 providers are working with CO-REC to achieve meaningful use.

Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program central point of contact:

Betsy Baker, Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Coordinator

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Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) has been contracted by the Department to manage the POP and to provide the CO R&A system, including the web portal through which eligible providers will register and attest in order to receive their EHR incentive payments. ACS has already implemented this solution in many other states, including California, Alaska and Texas.