MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (EHR) INCENTIVE PROGRAM: OVERVIEW

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides for incentive payments for Medicare and Medicaid eligible hospitals and eligible professionals that are meaningful users of certified electronic health record (EHR) technology. The EHR incentive programs are part of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) of 2009 which amended the Social Security Act.

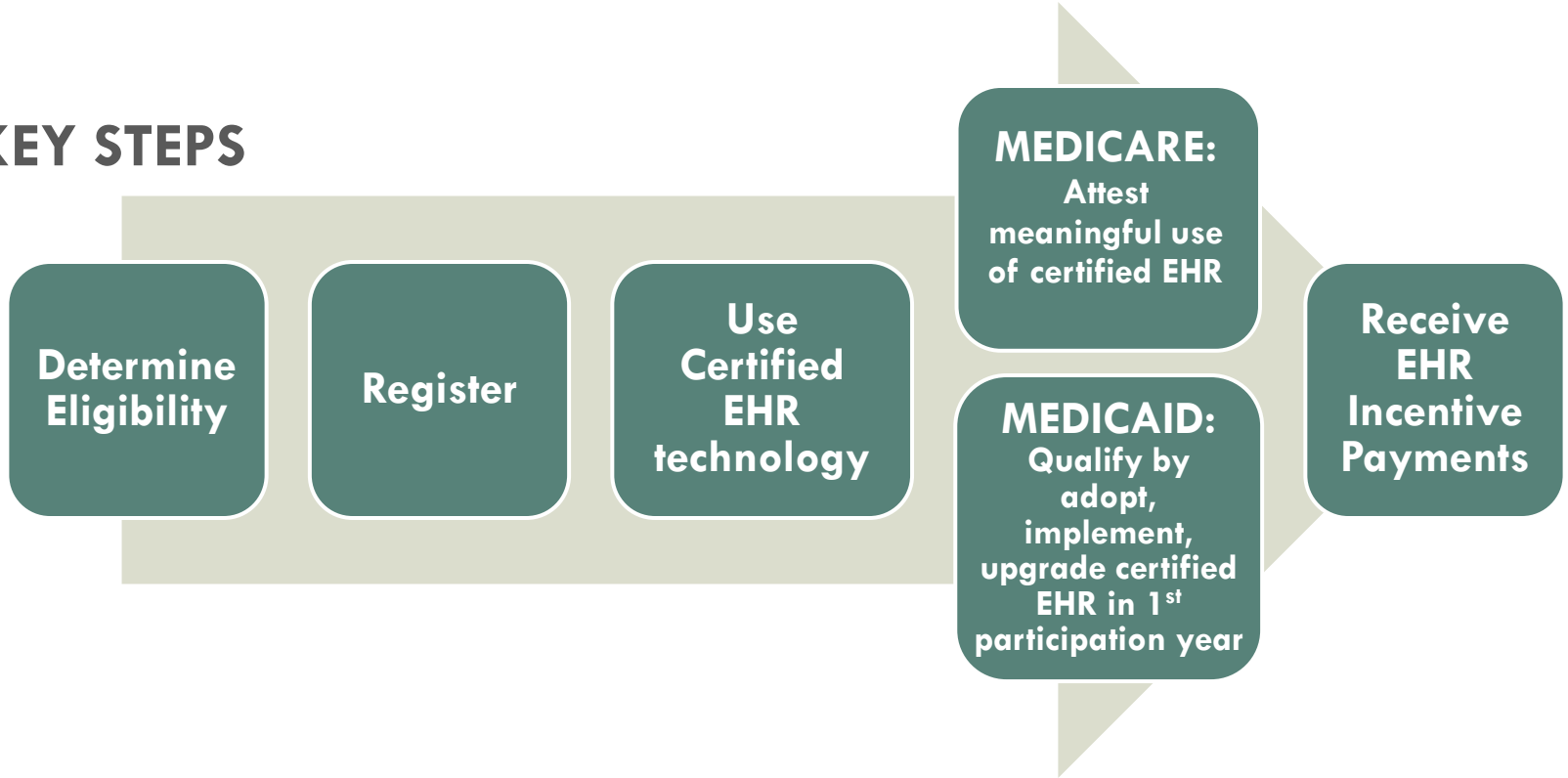
Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian health programs (I/T/U) eligible hospitals and eligible health professionals can receive EHR incentive payments if they meet requirements of the Medicare and/or Medicaid EHR incentive programs starting in 2011. For Medicare, they need to provide data and demonstrate meaningful use of a certified EHR. For Medicaid, they need to adopt, implement and upgrade a certified EHR in their first participation year.
** *Eligible hospitals and eligible professionals must take steps to receive payments.*

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) recently successfully passed all tests required for certification as a complete EHR for ambulatory and inpatient use, based on criteria established by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. I/T/Us that do not use RPMS must ensure their EHR is certified separately.

STEPS TO RECEIVE EHR INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

Indian Health Service, Tribal or Urban Indian Health Programs (I/T/U) eligible hospitals and eligible professionals can qualify for EHR incentive payments if they meet eligibility and other requirements of the Medicaid and/or Medicare EHR incentive programs.

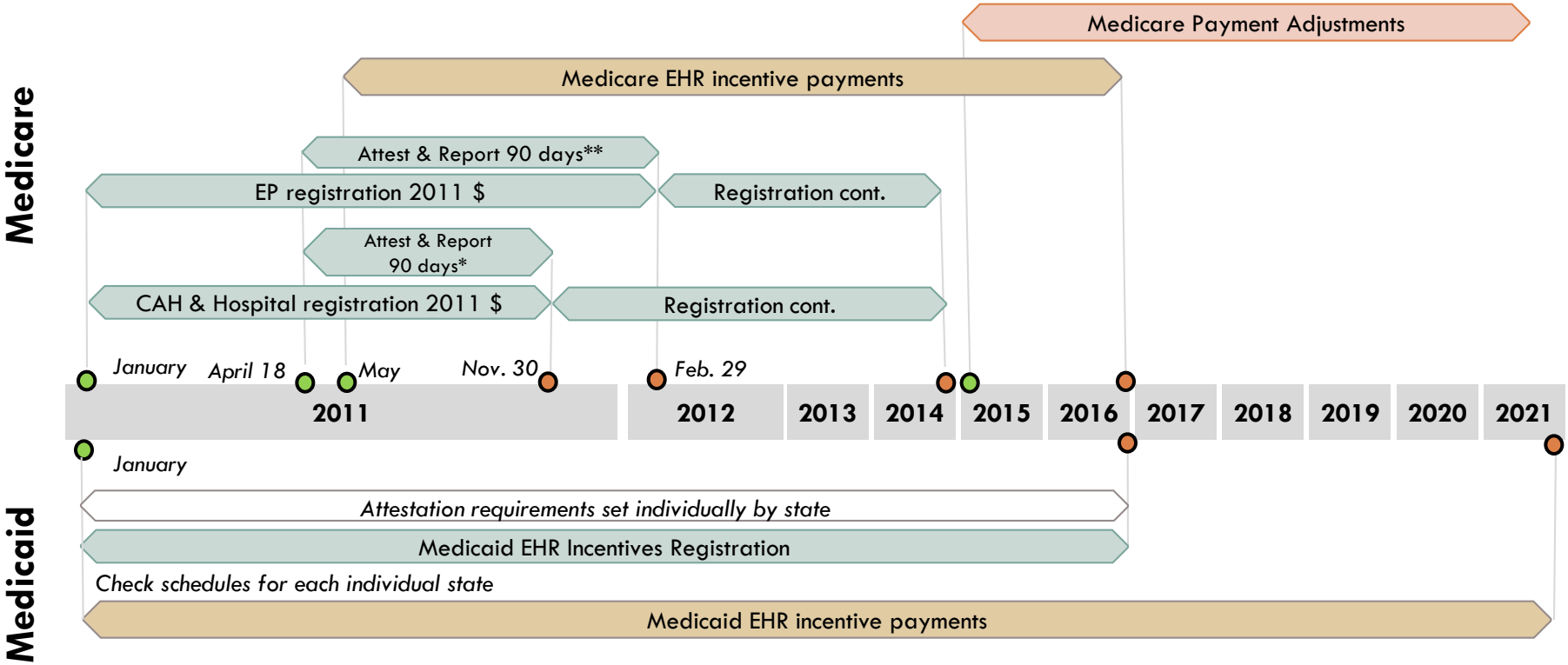
KEY STEPS



Detailed requirements and schedules for these steps differ for Medicare and Medicaid and for eligible hospitals and eligible professionals. Refer to the CMS EHR Incentive Programs website for details.

SCHEDULE DIFFERENCES

Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentives



Key 2011 dates

Medicare EHR Incentive Program

- **January 3, 2011** – Registration for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program begins.
- **April 18, 2011*** – Attestation for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program begins for eligible hospitals and eligible professionals.
- **May 2011** – EHR Incentive Payments for Medicare expected to begin.
- **July 3, 2011*** – Last day for hospitals to begin their 90-day reporting period to demonstrate meaningful use for the Medicare EHR Incentives.
- **October 1, 2011**** – Last day for professionals to begin their 90-day reporting period for calendar year 2011 for the Medicare EHR Incentives.
- **November 30, 2011*** – Last day for hospitals/CAHs to register and attest to receive a Medicare Incentive Payment for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2011.
- **February 29, 2012**** – Last day for eligible professionals to register and attest to receive Medicare Incentive Payment for calendar year (CY) 2011.

Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

- **January 3, 2011** – For Medicaid providers, states may launch their programs if they so choose.
- **September 30, 2011*** – Last day of the federal fiscal year. Reporting year ends for eligible hospitals and CAHs for Medicaid EHR Incentives.
- **December 31, 2011**** – Reporting year ends for eligible professionals for Medicaid EHR Incentives.

KEY ROLES

To Help I/T/U Eligible Hospitals and Eligible Professionals Qualify for Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentives

IHS OIT → **I/T/U** ← **NIHB**

IHS Office of Information Technology can help:

- RPMS EHR certified – completed
- RPMS upgrades/patches for certification– available May, 2011
- IHS cannot register, attest or demonstrate meaningful use on behalf of I/T/U eligible hospitals and eligible professionals - they must take steps themselves
- If an eligible hospital or eligible professional has chosen an EHR other than RPMS, they must use a certified EHR
- IHS OIT can provide technical assistance

To receive incentive payments, eligible hospitals and eligible professionals must:

- Determine eligibility
- Register by the deadlines – Medicare and/or Medicaid
- Use a certified EHR (RPMS or other)
- Submit Attestation - Medicare (demonstrate meaningful use); Medicaid (adopt, implement or upgrade EHR in 1st participation year)
- Receive incentive payments

The National Indian Health Board can help:

- NIHB received a HITECH grant to be a regional extension center (REC) to assist sites with adoption and use of certified EHRs
- For more information, go to the NIHB REC site – https://www.nihb.org/rec/rec.php

OTHER HELPFUL SOURCES:
EHR Incentive Program

CMS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Get Email Updates | Contact Us

http://healthit.hhs.gov

Indian Health Service

The Federal Health Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives

http://www.ihs.gov/recovery/index.cfm?module=dsp_arra_meaningful_use

http://www.ihs.gov/cio/ehr/index.cfm

National Indian Health Board

http://www.nihb.org/rec/rec.php